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Assad, Arafat hold meeting

CAIRO (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met here late Friday for the first time since 1993 in the presence of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Assad said at the end of the talks which lasted for more than one hour. Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak had separate talks before Mr. Arafat joined them at the five-star Meridien Helopolis Hotel where Arab leaders attending the first Arab summit for six years are staying, the officials said. The meeting puts an end to a break in ties between the two leaders which came about after Mr. Assad strongly criticised Mr. Arafat for signing a separate peace accord with Israel in 1993. Mr. Assad last received Mr. Arafat in his summer home in Latakia, northern Syria, before the Palestinian leader set off for Washington for the historic Sept. 13, 1993, signing of the peace accord with Israel at the White House. Mr. Arafat had sought Mr. Assad's backing for the agreement which granted the Palestinians limited autonomy but the veteran Syrian leader shrugged him off saying it was strictly a Palestinian affair.

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U.S: Decision on Ghali is irrevocable

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. decision to approve Boutros Ghali's reappointment as U.N. secretary general is irrevocable, the State Department said on Friday. "I hope Boutros Ghali would see our decision as irrevocable... our minds will not be changed," spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters. The Clinton administration, setting off a major clash over who will lead the United Nations into the 21st century, announced Thursday that it would not support Dr. Ghali's reelection to a second five-year term in December and said it would use its Security Council veto if necessary. But Dr. Ghali told reporters in Bonn: "I still hope that the United States will change its position. We still have six months until the elections." Dr. Ghali, 73, announced late Wednesday he would seek a second five-year term after turning down a U.S. compromise for a one-year extension while the United States and other U.N. members sought a replacement. The United Nations faces its toughest crisis in years, with debts mounting daily due mainly to the \$1.5 billion that the United States owes it.

Arab summit opens in Cairo today

First meeting of Arab leaders in six years seen unlikely to widen Arab-Israeli rift or deepen inter-Arab differences

Syria seems opting for reconciliatory stand in response to charges

Special from Cairo

THE FIRST Arab Summit meeting in six years opens here today amid optimism that, contrary to initial expectations and fears, it will neither widen the Arab-Israeli rift following the election of a right-wing government in Israel nor deepen existing differences among Arab states over the host of political and regional issues facing them.

While the foreign ministers' meeting that was held yesterday did not solve all problems standing in the way of reconciliation and forging a unified vision for the future, to be adopted by their leaders today and tomorrow,

it has become increasingly apparent that the conference will reach a common ground on which positive relationships can be renewed.

This common ground will be translated in a communiqué and resolutions that the summit will announce on Sunday. Up until last night, however, the final shape of the resolutions was somewhat unclear.

For instance, while the foreign ministers appeared broadly in agreement over the need to press ahead with the peace process with the Israelis, there remained differences over the question of contingency "normalisation" with the Jewish state before the new Israeli prime minister renewed his government's commitments to respect terms of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and the 1991 Madrid conference.

But the polarisation over this particular issue was not so strong as to hamper agreement over a common language to address it, according to Jordanian officials. "The fact that all Arab countries insisted on the land-for-peace formula which is ingrained in 242 and Madrid, including the Golan Heights and the occupied Palestinian territories, means that there are no differences over the principle here," Information Minister Marwan Muasher told journalists yesterday. "This, coupled with the fact that the

Arabs will oppose the expansion of new or the expansion of existing Jewish settlements, and will say so in the communiqué, means also that there is less and less to disagree about amongst ourselves regarding the peace effort," he said. "As to the Palestinians and the legitimate representativeness of the PLO, again there are no differences there, counting in the Americans."

The majority in the Arab World backs the Jordanian position that the new Israeli government has to be judged on what it does rather than on what its head and members think.

(Continued on page 7)

King holds talks with Bahraini emir, Arafat and other leaders

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, who arrived in Cairo Friday evening, held a series of meetings with Arab leaders shortly after his arrival on issues related to the Arab summit opening in the Egyptian capital on Saturday, Jordanian officials said.

They said the King's talks also touched upon bilateral relations and other issues of common concern.

The King met with Bahraini Emir Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the summit host, Algerian President Liamine Zeroual and Qatari Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and Sheikh Isa reviewed bilateral relations and Arab issues as well as the agenda for the summit.

Sheikh Isa extended an invitation to the King to visit Bahrain and expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the King and the Jordanian people and government for their support for Bahrain against conspiracies, Petra said.

King Hussein said in an interview with Bahraini television: "I hope the summit will come to a success in fulfilling our people's aspirations for a better life."

The King added that frankness

was the only means to reach integrity.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who arrived in Cairo on Thursday, and Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh attended the audience while it was attended on the Bahraini side by the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

King Hussein's talks with President Arafat dealt with the agenda for the Arab summit. The King briefed Mr. Arafat on his latest visit to the United States.

The King reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinians right to establish their own state on their national soil.

Attending the meeting were Mr. Kabariti and Dr. Khasawneh while it was attended on the Palestinian side by Mahmoud Abbas, Yasser Abed Rabbo and Nabil Shaath.

The King is accompanied to the summit by Mr. Kabariti, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sad Hayel Srour, Dr. Khasawneh, the King's Military Secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad will serve as Regent during the King's absence.

It was also expected that the King would hold talks with other Arab leaders, including Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his arrival in Cairo on Friday by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (Reuters photo)

Kabariti: Iran should be censured for terrorism

CAIRO (Agencies) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Friday said the Arab summit opening here Saturday should denounce Iran for allegedly supporting terrorism.

"We would like to have Iran listed as a country which supports terrorism and is trying to undermine stability and as a force that doesn't see eye to eye when it comes to peacemaking," Mr. Kabariti

said on the eve of the summit.

"It has to be mentioned and noted this way," he said in reference to the final declaration which Arab leaders were expected to adopt at the end of the two-day summit on Sunday.

Asked about a wave of concern among Arab countries that a military accord signed between Turkey and Israel could harm regional

balance, he said: "We think Turkey should be kept as a very close friend and ally of the Arabs."

"We shouldn't antagonise Turkey for no reason," Mr. Kabariti said.

On Thursday Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharua said the summit should examine the massing of Turkish troops on the border with his country, accusing Ankara of pre-meditated

provocations.

"Any agreement signed by Turkey with a country that occupies part of Syrian territory ... could only increase tension," Mr. Sharua said.

Mr. Kabariti, who attended a foreign ministers' meeting on Friday to prepare the agenda and finalise a draft declaration, said a "conciliatory tone" emerged

(Continued on page 7)

Draft resolution says peace a strategic option, urges Israel to respect land-for-peace principle

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab leaders believe peace with Israel is a strategic option and will renew calls for a land-for-peace settlement, according to the guidelines for a final resolution released Friday before their historic summit.

The guidelines were laid down Friday by the foreign ministers of 21 Arab states ahead of the first Arab summit in six years which opens Saturday in Cairo.

The summit will try to push new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu into softening his hardline positions on peace, as well as find a way to unite Arab ranks and deal with longstanding

regional disputes and tensions.

The ministers approved an official agenda for the summit but asked a committee of officials from 21 states to draft the final statement, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told a press conference.

The committee will first submit the draft to foreign ministers for approval who will then it over to the summit leaders to approve it, Mr. Musa said.

The final declaration will comprise six parts: a preamble, the summit's goals, developments affecting the peace process, common Arab

action, regional Arab developments and a strategy for future action.

"The Arab leaders met to examine the peace process in the Middle East and its development in light of... a desire to bolster efforts aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East," the text says.

The summit will also seek to map out "common action to build Arab solidarity and step up Arab coordination," it adds.

"It states that 'peace is a strategic option which must be equally respected by Israel' and warns of the 'dangers of breaking away

from the principles of the peace process namely the principle of land-for-peace."

The text denounces Israeli attempts to expand Jewish settlements and its refusal to solve the issue of East Jerusalem.

It also calls for a nuclear free zone in the Middle East and demands Israeli compliance with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Turning to the need to unify Arab ranks, the text underlines "the importance of supporting Arab national security," stressing that disputes should be solved through diplomacy and mutual respect ruling out any

"interference" in internal Arab affairs.

The leaders were also expected to try to reach a "common consensus" on the issue of terrorism, the Turkish-Israeli military accord, a bombing campaign in Bahrain and the conflict between Eritrea and Yemen.

Libya's standoff with the West over the Lockerbie bombing as well as the situation in Iraq and Somalia would also figure on the agenda along with a row between Iran and the United Arab Emirates over who

(Continued on page 7)

Israel: Dialogue, not 'threats,' key to peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's new hardline government said ahead of Saturday's Arab summit prompted by it coming to power that peace was made through negotiation — not pressure or threats.

"Peace is not... reached through threats," Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said on Friday.

"Certainly there is no need to pressure Israel so that it will carry out its desire for peace. There are problems which must be clarified in an open dialogue," he told reporters.

Facing Arab fears he will break peace deals, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

summoned cabinet ministers and generals to discuss the army redeployment from Hebron promised in a peace deal signed in 1995 by the government he defeated last month.

Mr. Netanyahu's office said after the meeting: "The prime minister and ministers expressed no opinions, and no decisions were taken."

Mr. Levy gave Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammad Bassiouny, a message for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, host of the Arab summit in Cairo.

Mr. Netanyahu opposes the land-for-peace formula of ousted Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Levy, the moderate voice of previous Likud Party cabinets, assailed Arab states for complaining the new government's policies said "no" to swapping land-for-peace with Syria and the Palestinians.

"There are no noes in the Israeli government approach. There are a lot of yeses, there are a lot of positives... our direction is towards peace. There are problems. We aren't avoiding them. We'll discuss them," Mr. Levy told reporters.

"The government hasn't even had a week in office — already they judge it," he

(Continued on page 7)

Hebronites stage protest and warn against delay in Israeli withdrawal

HEBRON (Agencies) — More than 1,000 Palestinians protested violently Friday against the construction by Israel of a bypass road on seized Palestinian land south of this volatile West Bank city, witnesses said.

The protesters set fire to a car and four trucks and bulldozers working on the road near the village of Samua, about 10 kilometres south of Hebron, they said.

The Israeli army clamped a curfew on the village as they pursued those responsible for the violence, military sources said.

A total of 10 young Palestinians were arrested, and American photographer Suzanne Tobias together with

a Palestinian journalist were detained to allow their identities to be checked, the source added.

Samua is run by the Palestinian authorities but falls under the control of Israeli army.

Palestinians here also warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday that delaying withdrawal from the city could lead to violence.

Media reports have said that Mr. Netanyahu plans to pull out some Israeli troops while retaining overall control of security in the tense West Bank city. The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy

(Continued on page 7)

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Uneasy PNA hopes for a boost from summit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Worried over the rise to power in Israel of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is looking to this week's Arab summit to safeguard its legitimacy at home by keeping alive hopes for a Palestinian state.

But because of inter-Arab rivalries, the self-rule authority headed by Yasser Arafat might emerge from the Cairo gathering with only limited leverage to prod concessions from Israel, analysts said in advance of the meeting.

"The message is autonomy is not the solution, and if it is supposed to be a permanent solution then it is not the answer," said Mahdi Abdul Hadi, head of the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs, an independent think-tank in Jerusalem.

"Netanyahu must put in mind a Palestinian state," he said of the new right-wing Israeli prime minister. The Cairo meeting will be the first Arab summit since 1990, when the Gulf war divided the Arab World into supporters and opponents of the U.S.-led effort to oust occupying Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Foremost on the PNA agenda is eliciting Arab support to press Israel to carry out as yet unimplemented parts of the Pales-

tinian autonomy agreements, especially a redeployment of Israeli troops from the West Bank city of Hebron.

That step was delayed in March by the former Labour government of Simon Peres, who cited security considerations in the aftermath of bombing attacks in Israel by militants.

Mr. Netanyahu's government, in policy guidelines issued this week, ruled out a Palestinian state and his advisers have stressed they are hoping for an increased Jordanian role in the West Bank.

The new government has stressed that it will negotiate with the PNA but has been vague about whether the talks will include Mr. Arafat, who met frequently with Mr. Peres and his assassinated predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin.

The legitimacy of the authority hinges partly on Mr. Arafat's repeated promise to Palestinians that the "political process" of negotiation with Israel will produce a state with autonomy into an independent state with east Jerusalem as its capital.

There is also immediate worry about day-to-day economic conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, still hard-hit by an Israeli military closure imposed after the recent bombings and which has prevented

tens of thousands of Palestinian day labourers from reaching jobs in Israel.

Hassan Al-Kashif, writing in the pro-PNA Al Hayat Al Jadida daily newspaper Thursday, called for explicit financial commitments by countries attending the Arab summit to the self-rule areas.

"The Arab states must liberate us from the position of begging in front of Mr. Netanyahu and the donor countries," he wrote. But with Syria, Jordan, Libya and 19 other countries pressing their own national agendas at the meeting, Mr. Arafat may be hard-pressed to gain unified and meaningful action on the Palestinian issue.

Traditionally cool PLO relations with Syria remain sour over the Palestinian attempt at independent peacemaking with Israel, and while Jordan is verbally backing the PNA's quest for a state, suspicions linger about its intentions on the West Bank it once ruled.

"I hope the summit will produce a lot, but I do not think it will," said Nasser Al Din Nashashibi, a Palestinian journalist who served as an envoy for the Arab League in 1995.

"If the creation of Israel did not unite the Arab World, the success of Netanyahu will not do so," he said.

American Marines, sailors arrive for joint exercises with Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — American Marines and equipment started arriving in Jordan on Friday ahead of a joint exercise with the Jordanian Armed Forces beginning in Qatranah south of Amman on Monday, officials said.

Three American ships, the USS Tarawa, the USS Duluth and the USS Rushmore, docked at Aqaba on Friday, and unloading operations started immediately, the officials said. The American force is part of the 13th Marines Expeditionary Unit, a component of the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

The three vessels carry around 4,000 Marines and

sailors, and about 1,400 of them are expected to take direct part in the June 23-July 10 exercises codenamed "Infinite Moonlight '96." About the same number of Jordanian service personnel will take part in the exercise, which is part of American-Jordanian military cooperation launched in 1981.

"Infinite Moonlight '96" will be the second Jordanian-American joint military exercises this year after the armed forces of the two countries staged a joint training exercise in early May at the Azraq air force base north of Amman. Advanced jet fighters, including F-16s of the type that Jordan is expected to

receive this year took part in the exercises codenamed "Eager Tiger."

"Infinite Moonlight '96" will allow "U.S. Navy amphibious forces and Jordanian Armed Forces to train side-by-side, strengthening the military-to-military relationship and enhancing coordination and cooperation between U.S. and Jordanian forces," a joint Jordanian-American statement said last week.

"The exercise is part of the ongoing bilateral exercise programme between the United States military forces of the U.S. Central Command and the military forces of the Kingdom of Jordan," it added.

Plans underway for meeting to protect Palestinian refugees' rights

By Mervat Suwadeh Special to The Jordan Times

AMMAN — Efforts are underway in the Arab World, Europe and North America to hold the first conference of its kind for Palestinians in the diaspora amid mounting concern that a final Palestinian-Israeli settlement would not secure "the right for return" for exiled Palestinians.

Hisham Sharabi, an Arab American intellectual and head of the preparatory committee for the conference, said the gathering will place in Washington next year, and will give the opportunity for Palestinians in the diaspora to discuss their fate and "hopefully" adopt practical measures aiming at preserving their right for return and self-determination.

"If we succeed, this conference will be a very important step towards achieving the rights of displaced Palestinians and the refugees," Dr. Sharabi told a press conference.

He said the call for the conference was prompted by "the disastrous situation" that resulted after the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo agreement.

"From what we have seen so far of the Palestinian negotiators it is very doubtful that an Israeli-Palestinian final agreement would grant the right of return for the refugees or the displaced," Dr. Sharabi argued. "We had to face this deteriorating situation by coordinating the efforts of all Palestinians in the diaspora in order by holding this conference and other gatherings that would pave the way for an organised way for pursuing our rights." He maintained.

Dr. Sharabi stressed that the conference will launch a long campaign that targets all Palestinians in the diaspora and aims at "heightening their awareness of their rights."

"We do hope that of this conference will eventually lead to setting up institutions that represent Palestinians and pursue their

demands in a more organised form," Dr. Sharabi said.

Dr. Sharabi said the call for conference was received with broad welcome in Europe and North America but was met with scepticism by many Jordanian intellectuals.

In a lecture he delivered at the Chamber of Industry, he said many intellectuals, unionists and writers expressed concern that the call was a bid to create an "alternative" for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which will consequently lead to "deep divisions" among the Palestinians.

In a bid to mollify their concerns, Dr. Sharabi asserted that the conference was "instrument to defend the rights of the Palestinians" which should not contradict "the objectives of the PLO."

"We do not have to look for hidden motives," Dr. Sharabi said. "There is no time for speculations either we act or we drown."

High security in Cairo for summit

CAIRO (AP) — Security officials in charge of this weekend's Arab summit opening today — mindful of their own president was fired on at a similar meeting last year — blanketed the main summit hotel with police even before Arab leaders arrived.

Dozens of plainclothes police carrying walkie-talkies surrounded the Meridien Heliopolis — where heads of state will stay. Nearly as many traffic police stand by, and two cars filled with soldiers are parked on either side of the hotel.

"Even before the delegates start arriving, we have fully secured the town," Major General Mustafa Abdul Kadir, the interior ministry's chief of security, told the Associated Press.

"For instance," he said, "we have done several rehearsals to cover the motorcades of visiting leaders from the 21

member states of the Arab League.

Egypt faces a sensitive mission in protecting the various emirs and presidents since several face strong opposition at home. It was Egyptians who fired on President Hosni Mubarak last June at an African summit in Ethiopia. Mr. Mubarak was riding an armoured Mercedes and escaped injury.

The Interior Ministry also kept a watchful eye on southern Egypt, the springboard for Islamic militants who may seize the chance of the summit to embarrass Egypt's government by aiming at one of the distinguished guests.

Gen. Abdul Kader said that no security forces would be pulled from Egypt's south because they may be needed to quell any unrest in that volatile area.

More than 900 people, mainly policemen and

extremists, have died in the the four years since the militants began a campaign of violence aimed at replacing the secular government with strict Islamic rule.

Gen. Abdul Kader would not say how many police are involved in security for the summit, but the opposition daily al-wafd said 1,800 were assigned to the meeting.

The Meridien Heliopolis also has been cleared of all guests not attending the summit. They were moved to the hotel's downtown Cairo branch. Hotel manager Rudolf Borgess said all 40 of the Heliopolis Hotel's suites would be occupied by Arab leaders and aides. "It is a compact hotel and is close to the place of the meeting," Mr. Borgess said, referring to the Cairo international conference centre where the sessions will take place Saturday and Sunday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. to host NGO talks on Palestine

NEW YORK (U.N.) — The Annual North American non-governmental organisation (NGO) symposium on the question of Palestine will meet at U.N. headquarters from June 24 to 26 to consider the theme: "Towards a just and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine." Presentations will be made by experts from the United States and Canada, as well as by Palestinians and Israelis, and there will be an exchange of views on developments relating to the question of Palestine. The symposium seeks to mobilise NGO action in support of Palestinian rights and to meet the needs of reconstruction and nation-building during the transitional period. Those aims will be pursued in the light of the declaration of principles on interim self-government arrangements and subsequent agreements signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The meeting is sponsored by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

2 charged in plot to bomb Israeli general

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli military court has charged two Palestinian militants with plotting to blow up the Jerusalem home of an Israeli general. Military sources said Friday, Mansur Yousef Shamasneh and Rashid Haj, identified as members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), were accused of planning to blow up a car-bomb late last year outside the home of general Danny Rotshild, a former coordinator of Israeli activities in the occupied territories, the sources said. The two were arrested as they prepared the car bomb. They said they were also accused of involvement in an unsuccessful 1993 suicide car bombing against a bus stop used by Israeli soldiers near the West Bank town of Ramallah. The operation failed when the bomb blew up prematurely, killing the driver of the car.

U.N. chief dispatches deputy to Mideast

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.N. chief Boutros Ghali has dispatched Kofi Annan, his deputy in charge of peacekeeping, to the Middle East to discuss U.N. peacekeeping in southern Lebanon, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday. Mr. Annan, who arrives in Lebanon on June 26, will have meetings in Lebanon, Syria and Israel, said spokesman Ahmad Fawzi. There are 4,600 U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon, where Israel occupies a "security zone." A U.N. camp in the zone near the town of Cana was shelled by Israel in April, killing about 100 civilians who had taken refuge there. A fragile ceasefire remains in effect in the region.

Malaysia ties with Israel depend on peace

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia's ties with Israel depend on the new government's commitment to peace in the Middle East, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said on Friday. Malaysia has no diplomatic ties with Israel. Last year, it relaxed a total ban on travel to the Jewish state by allowing Malaysians to go on holy pilgrimages and business trips, after Israel and the Palestinians signed autonomy accords. The national news agency Bernama quoted Mr. Badawi as saying Malaysia would continue to allow its private sector to do business with Israel. But he said the policy was tied to the new government's commitment to the Middle East peace process.

Israel's ambassador to U.S. wants to quit

WASHINGTON (R) — Israel's ambassador to the United States, Itamar Rabinovich, has told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu he wants to leave his post before the summer is over, the Washington Post reported on Friday. Staying on would be to "defect in place," he was quoted as saying. Mr. Rabinovich told Mr. Netanyahu upon his election, "Bibi, you know I must go and I know I must go," the paper said. "I have been negotiating with the Syrians for four years. If I get different guidelines now, you expect me to go on CNN and say it has all changed now? I cannot do it. I have my identity," the paper quoted him as saying. The ambassador represented the Labour government of former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, ousted by Mr. Netanyahu in a May 29 election, and was its main negotiator with Syria.

Turkish planes cause alarm in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish war planes flew low over the divided Cyprus capital of Nicosia on Friday, causing alarm among Greek Cypriot residents of the city and drawing a protest from the United Nations. Waldemar Rokoszewski, a spokesman for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force UNFICYP, said two Turkish fighters overflew the buffer zone twice as part of military exercises. "This matter has been strongly protested," he told Reuters. Some people rushed out into the streets to look at the circling planes while others hung out of office windows. Witnesses saw one Turkish plane firing its guns at mock targets in the northern Pentaktylos Mountain range before disappearing behind a mountain.

Interfaith group spokesman says U.S. should protect peace process

WASHINGTON (USIA) — "It is very important for the United States to protect the accomplishments (of) the peace process in the Middle East (and) the only way to (do that) is to move forward a peace," the head of an interfaith organisation said Thursday during a visit to Washington.

Ronald J. Young, a Quaker and former director of peace programmes for the American Friends Service Committee, is now the head of an unusual religious alliance, the Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East. The committee's membership includes Jews, Christians and Muslims who believe that peace in the Middle East is essential for Israel, the Arabs and their neighbours, and for the world.

Mr. Young is the author of a 1987 report prepared for the American Service Committee titled "Missed Opportunities for Peace: U.S. Middle East Policy 1981-1986." In 1987 he established the U.S. Interreligious Committee to urge the United States and Middle East negotiators to "make peace a priority and to promote negotiations for a just peace" based on:

— Israel's right to secure borders and peace with her

neighbours;

— the Palestinian people's right to self-determination;

— the need for an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

In an address before the American Muslim Council in Washington, Mr. Young voiced his group's support for the ongoing peace process which, he said, "has made certain accomplishments that are real. But it has huge amounts of frustrations, ambiguities, inadequacies, and failures as well."

"It may be a source of some encouragement that if the peace process is based on basic mutually accepted realities, a change of government is not going to change the basic realities," he suggested.

Mr. Young acknowledged, however, that pursuing peace in the area now "is a tough assignment" because the major question is what direction will the new Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu take on negotiating with Palestinians and Arabs? Nevertheless, he said, "it is up to the United States government to help the new Israeli government, even though that would be difficult during an election year."

According to Mr. Young, Likud's present policy guidelines — with their pledges to retain the Golan Heights, to expand Jewish settlements and to block the formation of a Palestinian state — are raising concerns about the current status of the peace process.

He suggested that peace-makers consider the method that the Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East follows in seeking peace: "We talk to Israelis and West Bank (residents) and listen to what they are saying. From the ideas we hear, we know the problems can be solved."

He reported that "people over there who had the job of solving the problem actually began to think of ideas that can solve the problem. But people here tend to restate their case again and again."

Mr. Young told his Muslim audience that everywhere he speaks, he says the same thing — Dialogue means taking into account all the aspects of a complex picture. But even if the parties cannot agree, the dialogue must continue "as part of the weaving that needs to happen if there is going to be a new rug some day in the Middle East."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Moumin
15:30 Pankin Patch
16:00 Blue Hecker
16:30 Big Brother Luke
16:55 News flash
17:00 European Championship 1996
18:45 Serie — Chateau Valen
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Fut Pas Rever
19:30 New headlines
19:35 Comedy — The Turkishmen
20:00 Album Show
20:55 Doc. — Our Planet, Our Earth
21:10 Miami Vice
22:00 News in English
22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10 Feature film: "A Hazard of Heart"

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr
12:30 (Sunni) Dhuhr
12:37 Dhuhr
16:18 Asr
19:49 Maghreb
21:24 'Isha

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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fine with temperatures below average and winds northerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 15 / 28
Aqaba 21 / 35

Deserts 4 / 31
Jordan Valley 21 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 27, Aqaba 34 Humidity
readings: Amman 42 per cent,
Aqaba 33 per cent.

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Dr. Bahjat Budr 832642
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Al Asma pharmacy 637055
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Shmouni pharmacy 637601
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ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halasch 987799
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 421111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 845402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 615801
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53204
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/52
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Ann. 644201/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann. 64241/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malthas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Simciani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645945
Al-Musaber Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Musaber 777010/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/5
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Sarcoid Surgery 895199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)980540
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986733
Al Huda Modern Hospital (09)986990
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital 02127555
Great Catholic Hospital 02127275
Ibn al-Nafis Hospital 02347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03314111

5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone (08) 52744.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:20 Beirut (RJ)
08:30 New Delhi (RJ)
08:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
14:15 Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)
18:10 Istanbul (RJ)
18:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:15 London, Beirut (RJ)
21:10 Vienna (OS)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:00 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights
13:40 Muscat, Doha (GF)
15:00 Vienna (OS)
19:35 Amsterdam (KL)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
20:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
21:15 London (BA)
22:35 Larnaca (CY)
23:55 London (KL)
03:00 Kuwait (KL)
03:00 Rome (AZ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 532381.

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 Aqaba (OAI) — proceeds to Marka airport at 10:00 a.m. (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:35 Beirut (RJ)
09:45 Istanbul (RJ)
12:00 Vienna (OS)
12:00 Berlin, Paris (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:15 Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
15:45 London (KL)
18:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
21:10 Larnaca (CY)
21:30 Beirut (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:00 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights
08:45 Beirut (ME)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
16:00 Vienna (OS)
20:45 Kuwait (KL)
21:25 Cairo (MS)
23:30 Larnaca (CY)
23:55 Paris, Damascus (AF)
04:00 Amsterdam (KL)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
06:40 London (KL)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

20:30 Aqaba (RW)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apricot 700/500
Banana 600/600
Banana (Mukammur) 520/520
Banana (imported) 780/550
Carrot 70 / 50
Cauliflower 150/100
Cucumber (large) 90/60
Cucumber (small) 140 / 90
Eggplant 200 / 140
Garlic 650/400
Lemon 750/500
Marrow (large) 150 / 100
Marrow (small) 220 / 150
Mulukbiyah 150/90
Onion (dry) 130 / 80
Okra 950/600
Orange 400/300
Peach 700/500
Peach 600/400
Pepper (hot) 420 / 320
Pepper (sweet) 380/300
Potato 250/160
String Bean 500 / 350
Sweet melon 360 / 240
Tomato 110/60
Water melon 100 / 70



OPEC to lend Jordan \$5m

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A fund set up and administered by the international group of oil-exporting countries is giving Jordan a loan of \$5 million to help develop the Kingdom's education sector through building schools under an agreement signed here on Thursday.

The soft-term loan is the fifth project credit extended by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development. Earlier loans were in the energy sector (two), mining (one) and agriculture (one). Jordan's ties with the OPEC fund date back to the 1970s, and the first OPEC fund loan to Jordan was signed in 1977.

The agreement was signed at the Ministry of Planning by Water and Irrigation Minister Samir Kassar on behalf of the government of Jordan, and Saleh Al Omair, chairman of the governing board of the OPEC fund.

Mr. Omair was on a short working visit to Jordan. The loan is being extended in the framework of an investment programme for human resources development that Jordan has drawn up in coordination with the World Bank.

Major contributors to the programme include the government of Japan (around \$60 million) and the European Union.

Some of those loan agreements have already been signed, and others are in the finalisation stage.

In specific terms, the \$5 million loan signed on Thursday will be used to build 15 schools of multi-storey concrete structures in the heavily populated urban areas of Amman.

The buildings will have 150 classrooms, staff

rooms, workshops, laboratories, administrative offices, libraries, store rooms and sanitation facilities.

Locally produced items and furniture will be used and local contractors will be employed wherever possible and as far as is practicable in the 1996-98 project, said on OPEC fund statement.

"There is an urgent need to upgrade the facilities in the area since, under present conditions, education is seriously constrained by the inconvenience of having to use rented apartments on double shifts for classroom purposes," said the release.

"Improvements in the general learning environment will help reduce both student and teacher absenteeism and make it easier for pupils to pass from one class level to other by reducing repetition and enabling students to complete their curricula."

The OPEC fund expressed hope that "boosting the absorptive capacity of the school-system will also contribute to the government's long-term aim of providing universal access to basic education."

The loan, which carries 3.75 per cent annual interest and a one per cent annual service charge on amounts withdrawn and outstanding, will mature in 17 years, including a grace period of five years.

The World Bank will serve as the appraising agency and the OPEC fund will be the loan administrator.

The OPEC fund describes itself as "a development institution established in 1976 by the member states of OPEC to help promote South-South solidarity and strengthen cooperation between countries of the developing world."

Allison Coates Halaby dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mrs. Allison Coates Halaby, second wife of Mr. Najeeb Halaby, father of Her Majesty Queen Noor, died at Georgetown University Hospital of cardiac arrest on June 17, a Royal Court statement said Thursday.

Mrs. Halaby, an environmental educator, studied at the Sandia School, the American University of Beirut and Columbia University in New York, the statement said.

She worked with various organisations on environmental education and published a textbook and produced a film for schools in Third World countries, according to the statement.

Mrs. Halaby served on the Advisory Councils of Save the Children Federation, the World Wildlife Fund and the Caribbean Conservation Corporation and was a trustee of Shash Bruce Youthwork in Washington D.C.

She was a trustee emerita of the American University of Beirut and received the Order of Cedars from the Lebanese government.

Mrs. Halaby, who was also a member of the Society of Women Geographers, was an accomplished pilot.

She regularly joined her husband Najeeb Halaby in flying their Piper Malibu within the United States and occasionally overseas, the statement said.

Crown Prince stresses the 'opportunity of choosing peace'

World forum honours Prince Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Senator Kamel Abu Jaber Friday attended the Crans-Montana Forum's plenary in Geneva, Switzerland, entitled "Jordan in the Regional Context," and read out the Crown Prince's address.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of cooperation and building of partnerships for future growth and development.

"Future growth must be based on economic cooperation," said the Crown Prince, adding that "economic security of the individual and that of the nation is paramount in order for trade, commerce, industry and business to flourish".

The Crown Prince said Jordan believes that the eradication of disparities can not be achieved unless and until "we work together as partners, and that is why we encourage neighbours to be neighbourly."

Referring to the economic situation in Jordan and the impact of the several waves of refugees and returnees on the country's development efforts, Prince Hassan said "we have borne the burden of accommodating several waves of forced refugees and returnees in 1948, 1967 and the great wave of 1990 that increased our population overnight by around 10 per cent."

The Crown Prince noted that the last wave came at a time when the Jordanian economy was already depressed and was undergoing an economic readjustment process.

He cited the significant reduction in remittances from Jordanians working abroad, the sharp decline in exports coupled with the virtual severance of financial assistance from Gulf countries as major obstacles to national economic performance.

He noted that such negative developments have put additional pressures on Jordan's social services, including health, education and welfare.

The Crown Prince said "the faith and generous help from our friends and partners in Japan, the U.S., Canada, Germany and many other European countries and multilateral financial institutions enabled us to resume our economic development while meeting our external obligations."

On Jordan's economic performance, Prince Hassan said that the country's economic performance has earned the approval of the Bretton Woods Institutions. Jordan met and even exceeded the economic targets established in its programme supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Prince Hassan said, adding that the country's real economic growth for 1996 is estimated at 6.5 per cent and that inflation is below 4 per cent.

The Crown Prince stressed that peace is not a risk but an opportunity to be grasped, and urged all in the region to take hold of the historical moment and not to let the enemies of peace succeed.

He said: "A derailment of the peace process at this juncture will not only bring forth the forces of extremism and politics and economics of doom, but will also mean our effective marginalisation."

The recent events leading to the peace treaty with Israel have fortified the Jordanian government's commitment to ensuring social progress through rapid and sustained economic growth, he said.

"This week's conclusion in the United States of an agreement to construct an oil refinery at Aqaba at the cost of more than \$2 billion is perhaps one of the first and major dividends of peace not only to Jordan but also to the region," the Crown Prince said.

Referring to the benefits expected from entering into association agreements with the European Union, Prince Hassan said benefits will far outweigh the risks especially as "our economy readjusts and becomes more competitive."

On Thursday HRH Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan received on behalf of Crown Prince Hassan the "Prix de la Fondation," the Crans-Montana International Forum's Peace Prize from the Swiss President at a special ceremony held in Geneva.

Princess Rahma voiced Prince's Hassan's appreciation of the honour, saying the prize was a source of great pride to Jordan and those who respect the meaning of peace.

In his address to the opening session of the forum, which was delivered on his behalf by Princess Rahma, the Crown Prince said: "It is indeed a great honour for me to accept this award of peace, and it is with pride that I accept it not only for myself, but also on behalf of a nation of people who embraced a vision of peace and who struggled with incessant dedication to see this vision evolve into reality."

The Crown Prince stressed the need to recognise the dignity of peace at all levels and to work for its achievement. "It should then only be natural that the two nations who use the word peace, either

salam or shalom, many times a day, in many contexts, it is natural that these peoples should comprehend and recognise the dignity of peace at all levels", the Crown Prince said in his address to the forum, which is attended by a 40-member Jordanian delegation representing the private and public sectors, in addition to leading figures, parliamentarians, academics and information specialists.

Saying that peace-making is not a goal in itself, Prince Hassan added, "The goal lies in peace-building, and this will require that we deconstruct the language of war, a language that is non-communicative and provokes values of racism, exclusivity and isolation. We must reconstruct in its stead a new vocabulary of peace, creating a culture of peace."

Prince Hassan also said that "peace is a word that transcends the political rhetoric or terror. It is the world that established a common ground for dialogue between Jordan and Israel, recognising always that the first initiative by the peace maker is the establishment of a common language that delineates a common thought of a common ethic towards a common goal", the Crown Prince added.

He noted that the signing on Oct. 26, 1994 of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel represented the culmination of years of struggle by many, who amidst climates often chaotic and acrimonious believed that our region, that has in the past been gutted by the viciousness of war and desperation can generate into an oasis of harmony.

Prince Hassan praised the efforts made to achieve peace and voiced appreciation for those working towards it and who are ready to pay the price it requires.

Also deputising for the Crown Prince was his advisor and head of the Institute of Diplomacy Mazen Armouti who delivered Prince Hassan's address to the forum's first working session.

Underlining the need for a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East region, the Crown Prince stressed that such peace can never be achieved under the prevailing economic situation in the region.

The Crown Prince urged the world community which, he said, has a real interest in peace, as well as the concerned parties of the region, to support the peace camp and its endeavours to establish a just and durable peace and stressed

the need for providing full support for the Palestinian people in their quest to set up their independent state.

Prince Hassan stressed that peace based on military superiority will remain fragile, adding that real peace should encompass all economic, social and political dimensions and concepts and should develop real partnerships in shaping the new order in the region.

Referring to Jordan's endeavours, the Crown Prince noted that the Kingdom is preparing for the advent of the 21st century and gearing its various institutions and parliament for the construction of a comprehensive coherent social order which does not tolerate ethnic or religious differences.

Over the past two years, Jordan has been negotiating for partnership with the European Union and striving to join the World Trade Organisation in a bid to be part of the world economy and at the same time has been working towards restructuring its economic relations at the regional level, an objective that is being sought with the help and contribution of the private sector, added Prince Hassan.

He said the countries of the region should be helped in mobilising their resources towards a more prosperous era and overcoming poverty and hunger and cooperate for the future generations in the coming century.

Crown Prince Hassan delegated Sharif Jamil Ben Nasser to deliver his speech at the "Jordanian Night" function of the Montana Forum which displayed cultural, tourist, and other activities highlighting the country's attractions and culture.

Sharif Jamil presented Jordan's views with regard to cooperation among nations and inter-faith dialogue among the monotheistic religions stressing that dialogue constitutes the basis of understanding and precludes any hostilities among the followers of these faiths.

He said that by no means should the Middle East be allowed to witness extremism nor should the peace process be endangered by obstacles that weaken the peace-builders resolve.

The Crans-Montana Forum, which will end Sunday, is one of the leading intellectual, political and economic international forums in the world today.

Jordan's participation is organised by the Institute of Diplomacy.

British, Jordanian universities explore hotel management

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A British education consultant left Amman Friday after signing a letter of intent with Amman Private University to offer a British degree in hotel and catering management from Oxford Brooks University through the university and exploring other possibilities of offering British education to Jordanians through Jordan's institutions for higher education.

John Mitchell, a consultant for British Education Abroad — an overseas consultancy for degree, diploma and language courses — said that given the substantial number of educators trained in the British or North American systems and given the significant interest on behalf of Jordanians to benefit from British education, opportunities to offer British degrees through Jordanian institutions are considerable.

"We are preparing the groundwork with the respectable government accredited universities," he said. "BEA will bring in advisors and academics as the need arises to establish a number of programmes."

BEA has been examining the possibility of bringing British education to Jordan since mid-1995, Mr. Mitchell said, and hopes eventually to offer a full British degree in Jordan, although the law, at this time does not permit foreign universities to offer full degrees.

However, he said, cooperation agreements can proceed, offering diplomas and courses.

Mr. Mitchell said that BEA was particularly interested in cooperating

with specialised institutions, particularly banking and finance and hotel and catering management.

"It's important for Jordan to have financial core managers and experts because these people present the world with information about Jordan," he said. "The rest of the world needs this information to invest in the economy."

"Also, for hotel management and catering, there is a shortage of qualified people, and there is certainly a demand," he said, referring to Jordan's booming tourist industry. "We are looking at ways of providing a diploma in this area and giving students international recognition."

"This would also allow those with senior management potential to go on to earn a degree," he said.

He added that in addition to the letter of intent signed with Amman Private University, he had discussed the possibility of cooperative agreements with a board member of the recently established Amman Hotel and Training College.

Mr. Mitchell was accompanied during his trip to Amman by Roy Batchelor, Midland Bank Professor of Banking and Finance at City University Business School in London, who met with members of the board of the Arab Academy of Banking and Finance.

"At the academy, they already teach a British M.A. (masters) in finance and banking, so we talked about ways of cooperation — one possibility is a short course in financial markets," Mr. Batchelor said.

"We think there is enormous possibility for the academy to join (City University's) team in the field

of specialised banking," he said.

Admission to any institution offering British education, he said, would be based on A levels, international baccalaureate or a Jordanian high school diploma, with a high level of English.

Students entering would likely be required to complete a year of "foundation" courses which would include study skills and basic course studies.

Mr. Mitchell said educational agreements between the countries' universities presented numerous benefits to Jordanian students and parents.

Research and expertise from British universities would be accessible to Jordanian institutions, he said. But more importantly, he added, it widens the opportunities available for higher education while keeping students within the country.

"Parents who might not be able to afford to send students abroad for an English or North American education at considerable annual expense, might now be able to," he said.

"You also tend to keep kids in the country, where they will hopefully work and put something into the society and economy, whereas if you send them abroad, they may be inclined to stay there as they find lucrative opportunities on offer."

Mr. Mitchell added that progress towards a degree programme between Amman Private University and Oxford Brooks will commence later this fall when president of Amman Private University Amin Mahmoud, visits Oxford in September.

Experts call for educating public on problems, causes of domestic violence

By Rana Hussein and Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Experts indicated that domestic violence against women and children is on the rise in Jordan, and they called for the formation of a support group in order to educate society about the causes and solutions to the problem.

"We have tried to deny this phenomenon with different excuses," said Assistant Professor of Nursing Sawwan Majali, addressing a roundtable on domestic violence.

"We say that we are a conservative society, that we have strong family ties, that no one in Jordan could harm a child. But we read weekly, if not daily, of crimes of honour, of incest and abuse."

"It is time to say, it is a problem, and that is happening in Jordan," Dr. Majali stressed.

Domestic violence can be physical and psychological abuse towards any member of the family, said Anahid Kulwicki, a researcher on domestic violence in Arab-American communities.

"It includes emotional abuse, economic abuse, sexual abuse, using children, threats, using male privilege, intimidation and isolation," she said.

According to a recent study conducted by the Public Security Department, and included as part of Jordan's official paper presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing last September, there were 4,962 cases of registered domestic violence — which includes only physical violence — at police stations in the Kingdom between 1991 and 1992. Between 1989 and 1990, there were 4,694 cases.

Lawyer and human rights activist Asma Khader said that a hotline, established

last March, and offering legal advice to women subjected to domestic violence receives a daily average of seven new cases.

"But our problem is that we can only offer them legal advice because there are no shelters and no alternatives for women and children," she said.

During the roundtable, entitled "Domestic Violence: the Jordanian and Arab-American Perspectives" and hosted at the Fulbright House, Ms. Khader added that these figures most likely belie the frequency of domestic violence, and said that most experts estimate that only 20 per cent of such cases are ever reported.

Head of the National Institute of Forensic Medicine, Mu'men Hadidi said the institute studies approximately 12,000 cases of death and injury yearly.

Dr. Hadidi said cases he reviewed were mostly violence against women and

children. He said the institute has begun to more thoroughly examine cases of women and children, to determine if women are injured due to accident or to abuse.

According to Dr. Hadidi, during the years 1990-1993, there were 560 rape cases, and 27 cases of incest. It should be noted that sexual violence against a spouse is not considered rape under the law.

Dr. Hadidi also said that the institute suspects that many cases of suicide are related to domestic violence.

"We suspect some individuals who commit suicide do it because they are subjected to domestic violence, and because they have nowhere to go, they commit suicide to escape," he added.

Ferial Saleh, director of Hay Nazal Community Centres, said causes of domestic violence include honour, family problems,

financial difficulties and psychological disorders. These, she said, are relevant to cases reported in Amman, Zarqa, Balqa and Kerak, which have the highest number of reported incidents of domestic violence.

She said that most abusers were between the ages of 18-27 and 28-37, but that the majority of victims were below 18 years of age.

Data concerning domestic violence in Jordan is "very weak," said Josie Salem-Pickartz, director of Al Kutba Institute for Human Development, based in Amman.

Additionally, she said, legal investigations into such incidents are not conducted properly.

The solution, she said, is to initiate dialogue, and to engage religious leaders, who play a strong role in family matters and relationships.

HUDD to open housing programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) announced that it would offer limited-income groups an opportunity to join the department's savings programme for housing units in two estates: Al Marj in Karak Governorate and Salhiyet Al Abid in the Amman Governorate.

HUDD Director General Yousef Hiyasat Thursday

said that the two projects offer 751 plots of land for residential and commercial purposes. The plots lie on a total of 315 dunums located in the two areas.

The Al Marj Project comprises 206 plots on 126 dunums, and the rest are located in the Amman Governorate, said Mr. Hiyasat who stressed that HUDD will lay the infrastructure services such as roads,

electricity and water networks as well as create green parks for both projects.

Referring to Salhiyet Al Abid estate, Mr. Hiyasat said it is located east of Amman close to the ring road.

He said that in both areas HUDD will build schools and community centres as well as health centres and post offices.

Jordan sends relief to Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian military transport plane Friday left Amman for Sanaa carrying food, blankets and medicines in a relief effort for the victims of floods which occurred last week and resulted in 120 deaths.

The shipment was arranged by the Hashemite Charity Organisation (HCO) and was sent upon directives by His Majesty King Hussein, according to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi who was at the airport to witness the departure to Sanaa.

The HCO said that it has opened special accounts at the Islamic Bank, Arab Bank Ltd., and the Housing Bank in Jordan to accept financial donations for Yemen.

Yemeni Ambassador to Jordan Hassan Lawzi expressed his country's appreciation of King Hussein's aid to his brothers in the Arab and Islamic world. He also thanked the donors.

Irish police raid IRA arms factory

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister John Bruton challenged Sinn Fein Friday to make a "life or death" break with violence after Irish Police uncovered a major bomb factory set up by the party's IRA guerrilla allies.

Mr. Bruton congratulated Irish Police on the find in an interview with Irish Radio from the EU summit in Florence and said they had caught suspects in the act of making weapons.

"I also want to express my concern that this isn't just a factory that was there for making arms. I understand that they were actually in the process of manufacturing arms at the time of the find," Mr. Bruton said.

The factory was uncovered late Thursday night at a remote farm in County Laois south of Dublin by police investigating the IRA murder of a policeman in a botched robbery.

The murder and the bombing of Manchester last weekend by Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas fighting British rule of Northern Ireland has brought relations between the government and Sinn Fein, the guerrillas' political arm, to a new low.

Bruton's government has demanded that Sinn Fein seek a restoration of the IRA's broken 17-month truce and make a break with the IRA's armed

struggle against Britain but has rejected Sinn Fein's response as inadequate.

"If you have people actually manufacturing bombs, actually involved in bank raids, actually involved in igniting bombs in Manchester, whether or not Sinn Fein supports the armed struggle of that kind is not an academic question, it is a very practical question of life and death," Mr. Bruton said.

"How one can reconcile not threatening force with manufacturing bombs I don't know, and it would be important therefore to discover what is the attitude of the Republican movement on the use of force at this time."

Mr. Bruton said the failure of Sinn Fein to unambiguously break with IRA violence ran counter to its commitment to democratic principles drawn up by U.S. peace envoy George Mitchell, chairman of Northern Ireland peace talks.

Six men were being questioned in connection with the factory where bomb-making equipment, Semtex plastic explosive and weapons were discovered, according to security sources.

They said the men were in the process of making an IRA "barrack-buster" mortar of the sort the guerrillas

have used for two decades to bomb police and troops in Northern Ireland.

A police spokesman said: "We will not know the full extent of the haul until it has been examined forensically. But we are satisfied that it is a highly significant find."

The IRA is said by security sources to have several arms caches in remote mountain and bog sites in the Irish Republic and to have continued to train through a ceasefire that was declared in August 1994.

Most IRA weapons were bought in the 1970s from Libya with cash raised in the United States from Irish-Americans who back an end to British rule of Northern Ireland, the sources said.

The discovery followed a wide search for the IRA killers of policeman Jerry McCabe, who was killed with the guerrillas' favoured AK-47 assault rifle two weeks ago in the southern town of Adare. Several men and one woman have been arrested.

The killing galvanised public opinion against Sinn Fein for its continued links with the IRA. Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams says his party abhors violence but understands those who resort to arms to end injustice.

Mystery surrounds White House request for FBI files

WASHINGTON (R) — The list that Clinton White House aides used to obtain more than 400 FBI background files has not been found and the Secret Service has no idea where it originated, U.S. officials said Thursday.

The Secret Service and FBI officials said that despite the mystery over the list, they had no evidence to contradict U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement that the files were collected as a bureaucratic mistake.

The controversy is over whether the White House improperly sought and obtained sensitive FBI files on 408 people in late 1993 and early 1994, including prominent Republicans such as former Secretary of State James Baker and Reagan White House official Kenneth Duberstein.

The White House has said the list was gathered to clear people for White House passes, but the Secret Service which normally undertakes that task said it played no role in the request for the FBI files.

Attorney General Janet Reno Thursday asked Whitewater special counsel Kenneth Starr to investigate whether the Clinton White House improperly obtained the FBI files.

"As far as I know the White House has to this date not discovered the list," FBI General Counsel Howard Shapiro told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Several Republican senators said the missing list showed that Clinton aides wanted damaging information from the files to use against Republicans. Democrats said there was no evidence of more than a mistake.

White House officials welcomed the investigation announced by Ms. Reno. "The one thing we know ... is there was something terribly wrong with the list from

which these individuals were working," White House legal counsel Jack Quinn told ABC-TV's Nightline.

"What we all need to find out ... is why that list was used and where it came from and what the explanation is for this most unfortunate incident," he said, according to excerpts released before the programme aired.

Mr. Shapiro told the senators that someone in the White House Personnel Security Office called the FBI in advance and said a large number of files would be requested and should be delivered without delay.

"One of the (FBI) research analysts said not only was there a large list but we felt we had to get it done rapidly," Mr. Shapiro said. "They (the White House aide) said well don't let these drag out. That is not a quote."

Richard Miller, the White House Secret Service's assistant director for protection operations, told the senators: "We have no idea where this list came from."

Mr. Miller said requests for FBI security files on people seeking White House passes would normally be based on a Secret Service pass list but said the list used to obtain the FBI files was created by someone else.

When asked if they had any evidence the FBI files were obtained for a sinister purpose, Mr. Miller said he did not and Mr. Shapiro said he had no evidence at all on what the motivation was for obtaining the FBI files.

Anthony Marceca, the temporary White House aide who obtained the files, has said he mistakenly believed they were needed because a large number of former Republican presidential employees still wanted White House passes.

Top Clinton aide targeted in new Whitewater trial

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (R) — Whitewater prosecutors targeted a senior aide to President Bill Clinton Thursday, saying he took part in a conspiracy to hide bank withdrawals for a Clinton election campaign from federal regulators.

Lead prosecutor Hickman Ewing said White House aide Bruce Lindsey and Arkansas banker Robert Hill, one of two defendants on trial, hoped to keep secret large bank withdrawals made by the 1990 campaign to reflect Mr. Clinton as Arkansas' governor.

"The proof will show that both Hill and Lindsey desired that the transaction not be filed with the IRS (Internal Revenue Service)," Mr. Ewing told the jury of eight women and four men in his opening argument of the second Whitewater trial to come from a probe into Mr. Clinton's finances.

But Ewing went out of his way to distance Mr. Clinton from the case. "What is not on trial here is the (1990) campaign. What's not on trial is Bill Clinton," Mr. Ewing said.

But few doubt Mr. Clinton could suffer politically if prosecutors can prove Mr. Lindsey, one of the president's closest and most loyal friends, was involved in anything dirty. And the trial could highlight some unsavory, although not illegal, deals at the governor's mansion during Mr.

Clinton's term.

Mr. Lindsey has been named an unindicted co-conspirator in the case, which centres on irregularities in the management of a bank account held by Mr. Clinton's gubernatorial campaign.

Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Lindsey have been subpoenaed to testify as defence witnesses. It is not clear if prosecutors will seek an indictment against Mr. Lindsey, who was the campaign treasurer, but by making him an unindicted co-conspirator they can present hearsay evidence implicating him in court.

Mr. Hill and fellow defendant Herby Branscum, both friends of the president and prominent Arkansas Democrats, are accused of failing to report large cash withdrawals by the 1990 Clinton campaign from its account at their rural Perry County bank.

They have pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Mr. Lindsey's alleged role was to urge the bankers to hide withdrawals of more than \$50,000 in violation of federal statutes which require banks to notify the IRS when more than \$10,000 is deposited or withdrawn from any account.

The prosecution presented as evidence Thursday four \$7,500 checks signed by Lindsey on the same day in May 1990 and allegedly used to make a single \$30,000 cash withdrawal.

Mr. Lindsey has said the

funds were withdrawn in that way to keep political opponents from finding out what the campaign was spending on its election-day voter mobilisation programme, but insists there was no attempt to deceive regulators.

Mr. Branscum and Mr. Hill are also accused of filing bogus expense reports to reimburse themselves, family members and others for campaign donations to Mr. Clinton and other Arkansas Democrats.

Mr. Ewing said Thursday he will present as evidence a December 1990 memo from Mr. Lindsey to Mr. Clinton which says Mr. Hill planned to visit Mr. Clinton and give him \$15,500 in donations to help cover campaign debts and also hoped to discuss a political appointment for Mr. Branscum.

A few weeks after the alleged meeting, Mr. Clinton appointed Mr. Branscum to the influential Arkansas Highway Commission and later reappointed Mr. Hill to the state's Bank Commission. Mr. Clinton will likely be asked about the appointments when he gives his videotaped testimony at the White House on July 7.

Mandela thanks De Klerk as NP quits government

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela Friday thanked outgoing Deputy President Frederik Willem De Klerk and his National Party (NP) ministers for serving the country's coalition government during "the difficult days of the transition."

Mr. Mandela's remarks, made on the NP's last day in parliament as members of the country's government of National Unity, were greeted with ironic applause and cries of "bye-bye" from backbenchers in Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

South Africa's coalition cabinet held its last meeting before its winter break Wednesday. When parliament reopens in August, the NP will be out of government for the first time since 1948.

De Klerk announced in May that the conservative, mostly-white NP would be leaving its two-year partnership in government to form the country's main opposition.

The NP ruled for more than 40 years prior to South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, during a period when non-whites were barred from voting or holding office.

In his speech Friday, Mr. Mandela gave three outgoing senior NP officials particular mention — Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister "Pik" Botha, Provincial Affairs Minister Chris Fismar and Leon Wessels, who was former deputy-chairman of South Africa's constitution-writing team.

Mr. De Klerk Thursday expressed his gratitude for farewell remarks made by Mr. Mandela during the final cabinet meeting, saying relations between the two had been good. He told reporters the NP was leaving government with dignity.

"We are not angry, we are not disappointed," he said.

Mr. De Klerk also discounted rumours that he was intending to resign, saying he was looking forward to leading a vigorous opposition.

On Friday, Mr. Mandela also lambasted as unreliable "the declarations of South Africa's self-appointed spokespersons for foreign investors."

He referred to people who portray negative accounts of South Africa to potential investors, saying they "allow short term political differences to operate in the economic arena in ways that are counter-productive to longer term investment."



Filipino Muslim rebel chief Nur Misuari (right) grins during a closed door meeting with Philippine President Fidel Ramos' emissary Executive Secretary Ruben Torres in southern Davao. The Philippine government and guerrillas of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) are having crucial talks on ending a 24-year Muslim rebellion in the southern Philippine region (Reuter photo)

Philippine rebel chief says peace in government hands

DAVAO, Philippines (R) — A special emissary of President Fidel Ramos met Muslim rebel chief Nur Misuari twice Friday to try to resolve disputes blocking settlement of a 24-year Muslim rebellion in the southern Philippines.

Neither the chairman of the insurgent Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) nor presidential Executive Secretary Ruben Torres gave details of the meetings but Mr. Misuari said the key to solving the differences was in Mr. Ramos' hands.

"Everything is up to the president," he told reporters without elaborating.

A peace settlement would give the guerrillas a major role in developing the southern Mindanao region, scene of a 24-year-old conflict that has killed tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims.

"If you are playing chess this is the end game. Nobody can afford to make mistakes," Mr. Torres said.

Mr. Torres said Mr. Ramos' instructions to the government panel were to resolve as soon as possible the remaining issues.

Mr. Ramos launched the backroom diplomacy before the formal start of negotiations between government and MNLF negotiating panels to try to mend differences in the way of a peace pact.

"The issues are very complicated, you can't expect to have a solution overnight," MNLF senior leader Taruk Hussin said.

The government has agreed to the setting up of a council under Mr. Misuari, which will be the forerunner of an autonomous regional government.

But how many Muslim guerrillas would be integrated into the Philippine Armed Forces remains a contentious issue.

The MNLF also has not formally accepted the idea of a plebiscite in which theoretically the region's Christian majority could reject the autonomy scheme.

Before the start of informal talks, Mr. Misuari said a stop-gap solution would only breed a new war.

"If all we could do is come up with a stop-gap solution, I don't know whether what we are going to sow is permanent peace in the end, or it would be just sowing another seed for another round of war," he said.

The talks are being brokered by a committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference headed by Indonesia and an agreement reached in the city of Davao in the southern Philippines is to be formalised in Jakarta.

"It is the desire of everyone of us including (Indonesian Foreign Minister) Ali Alatas that we return to Jakarta next month to sign the final agreement, but it all depends upon what is going to happen here," Mr. Misuari said.

He said the proposed council will be useless unless the MNLF was given substantial powers to run it.

"We want very much to see the end of this whole trouble in Mindanao ... But like a disease we have to come up with the correct medicine. If the medicine is not the right one, we might end up prolonging the disease."

Russian helicopter downed in Chechnya, APCs destroyed

MOSCOW (AFP) — A Russian helicopter was shot down over southeast Chechnya and two armoured personnel carriers were destroyed Friday as Russian and Chechen military commanders were scheduled to hold peace talks.

The transport chopper was downed Thursday over the village of Tsentori, according to Russian military officials quoted by Interfax News Agency. One serviceman was killed, seven wounded.

Another five Russian soldiers were killed and five wounded when two armoured personnel carriers hit landmines in the ruined capital Grozny, Interfax reported.

However, there were hopes that Chechen military Commander Aslan Maskhadov and Russian troops Commander Vyacheslav Tikhomirov would meet Friday to begin implementing a landmark peace plan agreed to on June 10, Interfax said.

The two commanders are meant to work out a schedule for the pull-out of Russian troops and demilitarisation of the war zone agreed to in the accord.

However they have been unable to agree

on a meeting place, with Gen. Tikhomirov insisting on one of the Russian bases in Chechnya, and the rebels asking to meet either in one of their towns, or at the headquarters of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Grozny.

The meeting place for Friday's talks was not announced.

The accord also extended a ceasefire agreed to June 1 during an unprecedented meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and Chechen separatist President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev at the Kremlin.

Despite accusations on both sides of violations, there has been no heavy fighting since the accord was signed.

However, there has also been no movement on the major points decided in the accord — particularly the demilitarisation of the north Caucasus republic.

An estimated 40,000 people, mainly civilians, have been killed since Russian troops were sent to crush a declaration of independence by the Muslim republic in December 1994.

Papua New Guinea premier defends anti-rebel offensive

PORT MORESBY (R) — Papua New Guinea has defended its decision to launch an offensive against separatist rebels in the remote province of Bougainville island as the first unconfirmed reports of casualties emerged on Friday.

An Australian-based spokesman for the rebel Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) said he had received reports 13 BRA fighters had been killed in an attack by Papua New Guinea troops on a rebel-held area in the island's mountainous interior.

"I have sent word to our people to try and confirm this," Sydney-based BRA spokesman Moses Havinu told Reuters.

Papua New Guinea authorities were tight-lipped on progress of "Operation High Speed" launched Thursday to recapture the 10 per cent of the resource-rich island controlled by BRA. But Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan suggested it was a last resort.

"We are very concerned about the whole Bougainville situation," Mr. Chan told the Australian Broadcasting Corp (ABC) in a radio interview aired Friday. He said all attempts at a peaceful solution had failed.

He said his government, which made peace on Bougainville its chief goal when Mr. Chan came to power in 1994, had tried "everything you can think of", including peace talks, a ceasefire and an amnesty for

rebel leaders.

Neither Mr. Chan's office nor the defence and foreign ministries were available in the capital Friday to comment on fighting on the island, 800 kilometres northeast of here. Hundreds of people have died in the conflict over the past eight years, some due to lack of medical treatment and supplies on the island.

Mr. Chan has faced criticism by his country's influential neighbour Australia over the new offensive, but warned Canberra not to interfere in Papua New Guinea's internal affairs.

"It's time Australia allowed Papua New Guinea to run its own business," Mr. Chan told the ABC. "We are a sovereign nation."

Canberra gives Papua New Guinea, a former Australian colony, about 300 million Australian dollars (\$240 million) in financial aid each year.

A spokesman for Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has said the minister was disturbed to hear Papua New Guinea had gone ahead despite his plea not to escalate the conflict.

The western fringe of the Solomons archipelago is an eight kilometre canoe ride from Bougainville. The Solomons government fears fighting will spill over the narrow sea border.

Honest Nordics put rich Swiss to shame

BRUSSELS (R) — From losing things, particularly your wallet? Then the best place to be is the frozen but deeply honest north of Europe according to a survey by Reader's Digest magazine. Likewise the one place it is definitely advisable to steer clear of is affluent Switzerland and particularly the rich city of Lausanne. The results of the survey conducted by the magazine's office in Brussels were released Wednesday ahead of publication early next week. The magazine's editors organised the planting of 200 wallets containing the local equivalent of \$50 in 20 places around Europe. In total 116 were returned intact. In Denmark and Norway every wallet was returned. In Finland the tally was eight returned, two kept, and in Sweden it was seven returned, three disappeared.

German, Austrians, British, Spanish, Dutch and French were on balance more honest than sticky-fingered. With Portuguese and Belgians half the wallets were returned — although the score in Belgium could have been much higher had it not been for the distinct difficulty the Reader's Digest authors observed in people persuading police to take charge of the treasure trove. In Italy less than half the wallets were returned, and in Lausanne only two made it back to the owners. The magazine said one anomaly the survey discovered was that the people who often appeared more in need of the money proved to be more likely to return it, while those of more affluent appearance tended to pocket the cash.

U.S. Senate votes for military abortions

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate voted Wednesday to allow abortions in military hospitals overseas by repealing a law that now prohibits them. The Senate voted 51-45 to repeal the abortion ban in a \$267 billion defence bill. But the House of Representatives has voted to continue the ban. So congressional negotiators will have to decide a compromise in the final defence bill. Congress enacted last year the ban on abortions in military hospitals except in cases of rape or incest or to save a woman's life. The repeal was proposed by Senator Patty Murray, a Washington Democrat, who said the ban can force military women overseas to undergo dangerous back alley abortions.

Mandela's jail cell comes to parliament

CAPE TOWN (R) — President Nelson Mandela's past and present lives merged Friday when he visited a replica of his Robben Island Prison cell in the foyer of the South African parliament to which he brought democracy. "I hope this is not a bad omen," Mr. Mandela, 77, said with a broad grin as he emerged from the heavily barred door of the tiny cell "B5" that was his home for 18 of his 27 years in jail. The replica was part of an exhibition on the reform of the prison system that Mr. Mandela's African National Congress inherited from the white government it ousted in all-race elections in 1994. "This cell depicts the brutal past of the apartheid prison system. To expect people in their fifties and sixties to sleep on mats with a limited number of blankets on a cement floor in winter shows how uncaring the system was," he said. The green and grey cell was fitted out as Mr. Mandela found it when he was taken to Robben Island, eight miles into Cape Town's Table Bay in 1964, to begin a life sentence for opposing white rule.

Honest Nordic put rich Swiss to shame

BRUSSELS (R) — A survey by the Digest magazine, the one place it is not of affluent Switzerland and particularly the city of Lausanne. The results of the survey were published by the magazine in Brussels. The survey was conducted by the magazine's editors and the results of the survey were published by the magazine in Brussels. The survey was conducted by the magazine's editors and the results of the survey were published by the magazine in Brussels.



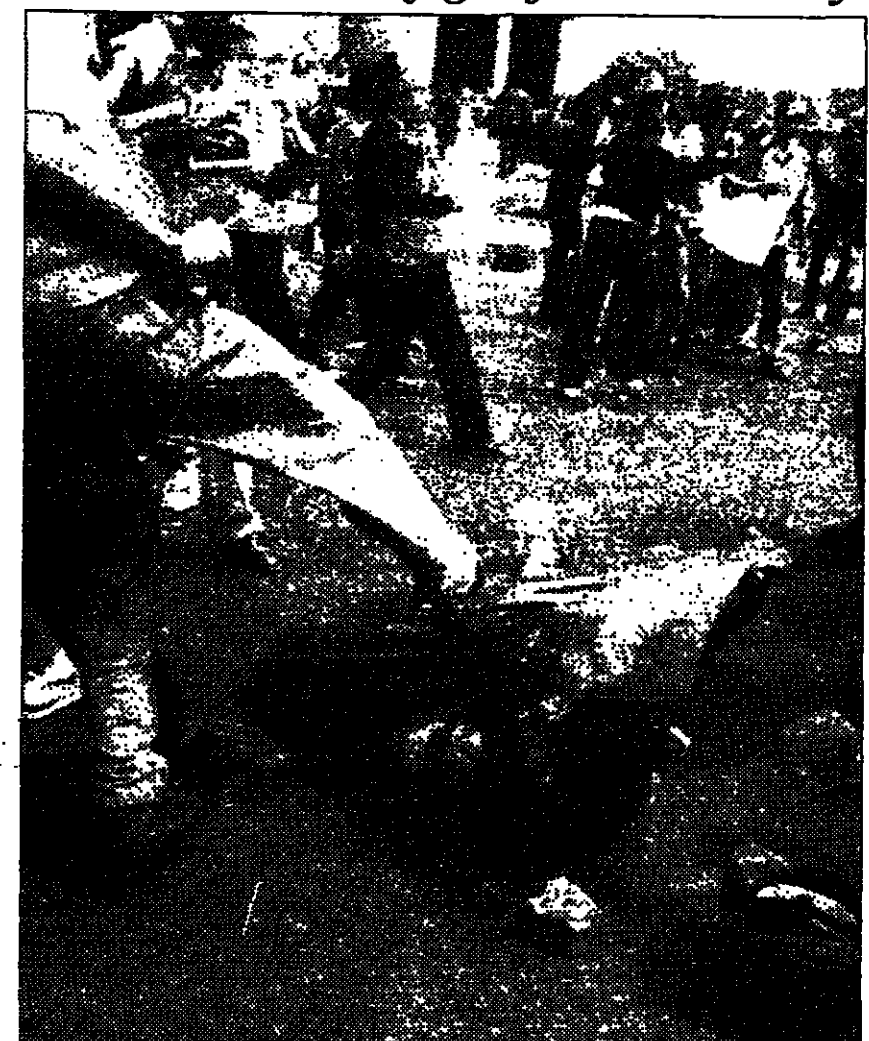
Indonesian soldiers beat protesters with batons to prevent them from demonstrating at the Home Affairs Ministry in central Jakarta Thursday. About 5,000 demonstrators from the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) marched in support of the PDI President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who faces a leadership challenge by party dissidents at a congress they opened Thursday in the North Sumatra city of Medan (Reuter photo)

Opposition leader vows to continue fight for democracy

JAKARTA (Agencies) — The embattled leader of the opposition Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI) Friday lashed out at what she called government attempts to discredit her and her party and vowed to continue to head the party and fight for democracy.

"I am still the democratically elected chairman of the PDI, who continues to receive the people's support and that of PDI chapters in the whole of Indonesia," PDI Chairwoman Megawati Sukarnoputri said in a statement read out by party executive Kwik Kian Gie.

Ms. Megawati, the daughter of Indonesia's founding President Sukarno, also brushed aside a congress being held by a splinter faction of the party in Medan, North Sumatra, as illegal and a violation of the party's constitution.



An Indonesian anti-riot soldier is kicked by protesters as he falls on the ground during a clash between the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) and troops in Jakarta Thursday (Reuter photo)

The congress, held with the tacit support of the government and the military, was scheduled to end later Friday or early Saturday, with the endorsement of former PDI Chairman Suryadi as new chairman to replace Ms. Megawati, press reports here said.

Ms. Megawati pledged that as leader of PDI, "I will continue to fight for democracy and uphold people's sovereignty."

She said the government's attempts to stifle the "democratic aspirations" of the people would "cause unrest which will be very disturbing to law and order."

The PDI, which enjoys considerable popular support because of Ms. Megawati's relationship to the country's founding president, is seen as the only legal party that could present any challenge to the ruling Golkar Party in next year's elections.

But the split could damage the party's effort.

Thousands of Megawati supporters marching in central Jakarta Thursday demanding a break-up of the Medan congress, clashed with security forces, leaving more than 100 injured.

In another press statement, in English, distributed to foreign journalists, Ms. Megawati accused government agents of initiating the stone throwing that led to Thursday's violent clash with security forces.

"The government has used all the powers and means at its disposal to try to discredit any and all pro-democratic supporters," she added.

Ms. Megawati said the government-sanctioned campaign to unseat her "has been characterised by a multiplicity of illegal and unconstitutional acts."

She cited the active participation of high ranking government officials and some members of the military, in helping to plan and execute the campaign against her.

Ms. Megawati also pointed to press censorship, and the use of intimidation and bribery to force party members to first of all call for the Congress and

then to attend it.

She reiterated the party's belief that it could garner up to 85 per cent of the vote in a free and fair election and called for "a joint domestic and international commission" to assess and monitor elections in Indonesia.

The commission should include members of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the Indonesian Commission on Human Rights and other human rights watchdogs, Ms. Megawati said.

Indonesians will vote to choose 425 of the country's 500 parliamentary seats in 1997. The remaining 75 seats are appointed by the president from the military who do not vote in elections.

PDI, along with the ruling Golkar Party which has won all elections since 1971 and the Muslim-oriented United Development Party, are the only three political parties recognised by the government.

PDI treasurer Laksamana Sukardi told AFP the party planned to launch a web site on the Internet Saturday.

There was a strong security presence around the PDI headquarters here Friday including anti-riot units, police dogs and armoured personnel carriers equipped with water cannons.

Yeltsin poised to win runoff after Kremlin showdown

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's dramatic purge of hardline security chiefs looks set to win him crucial extra votes in the runoff election against Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov on July 3.

A move by Kremlin hardliners to gain the upper hand over Mr. Yeltsin's liberal campaign managers backfired when the arrest of two senior campaign officials was exposed as a political manoeuvre, analysts said Friday.

The showdown between the liberal wing of Mr. Yeltsin's campaign team and the hardliners resulted in the dismissal Thursday of Presidential Guard chief Alexander Kozhakov, Federal Security Service (FSB) chief Mikhail Barsukov and First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, an economic conservative.

Mr. Yeltsin stands to gain votes from supporters of Alexander Lebed, a retired general who came third in the first round of the presidential elections Sunday with 14.5 per cent and is now Mr. Yeltsin's national security advisor.

Thursday's purge will also please those who backed liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky, who was fourth with seven per cent.

"Mr. Yeltsin has kept his horses for the river crossing and got rid of the donkeys," said the popular daily Moskowsky Komsomolets on its front page Friday.

In only three days Mr. Yeltsin had eliminated four "eminences grises" in his entourage — Kozhakov, Barsukov, Soskovets and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, who resigned Tuesday, the same day Gen. Lebed was appointed

secretary of the powerful Russian Security Council.

Mr. Kozhakov and Mr. Barsukov, old friends from their days in the Soviet KGB secret police, tried to "show Yeltsin that they were his real saviours, and that all the rest were sycophants whom he did not need and who were even dangerous," Moskowsky Komsomolets commented.

But the arrest early Wednesday of two senior Yeltsin campaign officials, allegedly for carrying \$500,000 out of the government building, backfired when Gen. Lebed denounced it as a political intrigue, saying "those who want to throw the country into the abyss of bloody chaos deserve no mercy at all."

Igor Bunin, a leading political analyst, predicted Friday that Mr. Yeltsin's new alliance with Gen. Lebed would enable him to boost his first round lead of three per cent over Mr. Zyuganov to nine per cent in the second round.

However, ITAR-TASS quoted Mr. Bunin as saying the outcome would largely depend on the turnout, which is expected to be lower than the first round figure of nearly 70 per cent.

Mr. Yeltsin would win if the turnout was around 64 per cent, but if it fell below 58 per cent Zyuganov would win, as his voters are more disciplined, Mr. Bunin predicted.

Irina Kobrenskaya, a political analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for Peace, a Moscow think-tank, said it was "still hard to predict how Gen. Lebed's supporters will vote, because they are not organised, and maybe only one-third of them will support

Yeltsin."

Most of Gen. Lebed's vote was captured from ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and the rest were fairly undecided, she told AFP.

The close finish in the first round prompted Mr. Yeltsin to take drastic action to grab votes from supporters of Lebed and Yavlinsky — first by giving Lebed a top job in the Kremlin and then by purging senior officials identified with the old order.

Alexander Kononov, a political analyst at the USA-Canada Institute in Moscow, said Mr. Yeltsin could now show that he "fired the most anti-democratic figures around him, this was a message to Yeltsin's supporters."

Meanwhile, to Gen. Lebed's supporters Mr. Yeltsin "can say he is already implementing the general's programme, fighting those who oppose the constitutional order."

According to political analyst Andrei Piontovskiy, Mr. Kozhakov's move against Mr. Yeltsin's liberal allies was part of a plot to bring a coalition government to power including the Communist-led opposition.

In May, Mr. Kozhakov called for the elections to be postponed, saying they could create instability in the country, but Mr. Yeltsin rebuked him and told him not to meddle in politics.

Mr. Piontovskiy said Mr. Kozhakov was working to "transfer power to the Communists, reduce Mr. Yeltsin to a ceremonial position, a figurehead, over a government with Mr. Zyuganov as prime minister or his nominee."

U.S. sets scene for battle at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — With the United States vowing to end Boutros Ghali's term as U.N. secretary-general, the stage is set for a major clash on who will lead the world body into the 20th century.

Believing he has to carry through the reforms and diplomatic work he began, Dr. Ghali told reporters in Bonn: "I still hope that the United States will change its position. We still have six months until the elections."

Dr. Ghali, 73, announced late Wednesday he would seek a second five-year term. His spokesman, Ahmad Fawzi, said the timing of the announcement was because the United States "decided to go public with its position" in Thursday's editions of the New York Times.

"I don't think that because one member state says one thing, that that should necessarily be the law," he said.

A U.S. official said key allies were called earlier to tell them that Washington's position would be made public.

Battle lines were drawn as the United Nations faces its toughest crisis in years with debts mounting daily, due mainly to the \$1.5 billion that the United States owes.

In Washington, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said bluntly: "We think there are most likely other people in the world who would be more capable of pursuing the type of U.N. reform agenda (that is needed)."

U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns was even more direct, saying, "it's unfortunate that this situation has arisen as it has... (but) we're prepared to use our veto."

The decision-making process, according to U.S. officials, was initiated by Madeleine Albright, the American ambassador to the United Nations last year. It included an April offer to Dr. Ghali to agree to a one-year extension only.

But the U.N. chief did not give in. Jeffrey Laurenti of the U.N. Association of the United States, a private group, believes Dr. Ghali wants Washington to use its veto power to show how much support he really has.

One U.S. official said Mrs. Albright's reasoning, which was accepted by others in the Clinton administration, was to quell intense criticism of the world body as a whole and Dr. Ghali in particular in the Republican-dominated U.S. Congress, and show "we were headed for new leadership."

Secondly, she felt Dr. Ghali was not doing enough for reform of the unwieldy bureaucracy and had to be goaded into making major changes.

"He may be a great diplomat and extremely successful at explaining foreign policy problems to world leaders," the official said. "But that doesn't include staying in New York and knocking heads together."

Mr. Fawzi, however, called the former Egyptian deputy prime minister "the greatest reformer in U.N. history," adding: "I haven't seen an American plan for reform. I have only seen criticism of the U.N. plan for reform," he said.

"You cannot achieve it in six months or one year or two years. You need a full mandate to reap the fruits of reform that have been sown" during his initial five-year term.

A U.N. secretary-general is selected through an opaque process that begins with a vote in the 15-seat Security Council and then confirmation by the 185-member General Assembly. Among the council's five permanent members with veto power, France, Russia and China are believed to favour Dr. Ghali, while Britain has been non-committal.

France, which supported Dr. Ghali five years ago, came close to endorsing him Thursday with Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt, saying that "according to long-established tradition, the secretary-general serves a second term at the head of the United Nations."

Mr. Fawzi contended that a majority of states backed Dr. Ghali.

But the United States said it does not have a substitute candidate, a situation that could lead to Washington losing control of the entire selection process.

Because of the large U.S. debt, many diplomats believe that any American endorsement of one particular candidate would be bound to fail.

Meanwhile a high ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official criticised Washington Friday for making public its views on the sensitive issue of who will be the next United Nations secretary-general, Interfax News Agency said.

Korea's former sex slaves seek Hashimoto apology

SEOUL (R) — Former sex slaves of the Japanese Imperial Army demonstrated in a Seoul park Friday on the eve of a fence-mending visit to South Korea by Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

A group of so-called "comfort women" who staffed Japanese military brothels during World War II called on Mr. Hashimoto to apologise. They are also demanding official compensation.

The ageing women were among about 500 protesters from various anti-Japanese organisations who rallied in a park near the Japanese embassy.

Many are calling for reparations from Tokyo for its 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean peninsula.

Mr. Hashimoto is scheduled to hold a summit Saturday and Sunday with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam on the resort island of Cheju.

Anti-Japanese groups have threatened to disrupt the summit.

Mr. Hashimoto's trip to South Korea, his first since he took office, is viewed by Seoul officials as largely symbolic, though the two leaders are expected to discuss food aid to North Korea and their country's co-hosting of the 2002 World Cup.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Mr. Hashimoto and Mr. Kim would discuss ways to persuade Pyongyang to agree to four-nation peace talks.

U.S. President Bill Clinton and President Kim jointly proposed the talks in April. They would include China and are aimed at replacing an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War with a lasting peace arrangement.

North Korea has yet to reply.

The meeting will indicate a new start in relations between two of Asia's most prickly neighbours.

"We want to turn a new page in ties between Japan and South Korea by successfully co-hosting the World Cup," Mr. Hashimoto said.

"We have indeed been given a chance to do so."

Animosity between Japan and South Korea dates back hundreds of years and periodically flares up in outbursts of national emotion, most recently in February during a dispute over ownership of a cluster of tiny ocean reefs.

The dispute over the Tokdo Islands, known in Japan as Takeshima, turned into a diplomatic crisis that has since simmered down.

Mr. Hashimoto, who will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, is expected to raise the "comfort women" issue.

He has been formulating an apology to go along with compensation payments of \$18,500 each to about 300 surviving women. Historians say up to 200,000 women — mostly Koreans but also women from the Philippines, Indonesia, China and the Netherlands — were pressed into sexual servitude.

Dozens of South Koreans, mostly those whose families were killed during World War II, scuffle with riot police outside the Japanese embassy in Seoul Friday, one day before Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's visit to the country (Reuter photo)



U.S. Senate votes for military abortions

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Wednesday voted to allow abortions in military personnel.

The vote was 84-14, with 14 Democrats and 14 Republicans voting against the measure.

The measure would allow military personnel to obtain abortions without the usual 72-hour waiting period.

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Cuba rejects U.N. report on plane downing

MONTREAL (R) — Cuban diplomats angrily rejected Thursday a U.N. report that concluded Cuba's downing of two U.S. civilian aircraft in February took place over international waters.

Ricardo Alarcon, speaker of the Cuban parliament, told reporters that the report by the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) contains "fabrications" introduced by U.S. authorities. These led the U.N. agency's investigators to conclude that Cuban MiG fighter jets shot down two civilian planes flown by the Miami-based Cuban exile group Brothers to the Rescue on Feb. 24 while they were outside Cuban airspace, he said.

"That is absolutely false. The report contains lies and fabrications introduced in it by the U.S.," Mr. Alarcon said.

The report, which Cuban diplomats said contains 96 pages of text and more than 200 pages of annexes, has not been released. U.S. officials said in Washington Thursday, however, that it concludes that the Cuban jets downed the two civilian planes over international waters.

In a briefing at the White House, Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff told reporters the investigators had also found that the Cuban pilots failed to issue proper warnings.

The plane downing killed four people and touched off a

new round of tensions between Cuba and Washington.

"The Cuban government's claim that it used deadly force due to the threat posed by the Brothers To The Rescue flights, that claim is bogus," Mr. Tarnoff said. He said ICAO had briefed both the United States and Cuba on its conclusions, which will be released shortly.

"The report will demonstrate that the unarmed civilian aircraft were shot down ... in international airspace, that there was no justification for that outrageous action and that the Cubans did not attempt to follow standard international norms in warning the aircraft," Mr. Tarnoff said.

Mr. Alarcon said Cuban authorities cooperated fully with ICAO investigators, but the final report appeared to be based on information provided by U.S. officials.

"There is a certain inclination in the report to take as God-given words anything that came from the American side," Mr. Alarcon said.

Mr. Alarcon told reporters he walked out of a "technical meeting" with U.S. representatives and the head of the ICAO investigation team Thursday morning in Montreal after realising that Cuba would not be able to suggest changes to the report.

Jordan Times

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Half the work done

THE FIRST signs emerging from Cairo where the Arab summit is opening today are encouraging. The foreign ministers' meeting Friday, led by the able and skillful Egyptian, Amr Musa, seemed to have headed off the coming from Amman, Washington, Rabat and other capitals calling for a moderate stance vis-a-vis the peace process after the return of Lebanon to power in Israel.

This was reflected in the final statement that the ministers drafted for their leaders to discuss and consider as the summit's final communiqué. In the draft statement, the ministers stated "peace is a strategic option which must be equally respected by Israel." The statement, once endorsed by the leaders, is expected to reduce tension in the region following Israel's shift to the right and subsequently pave the path to a resumption of the peace talks on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks.

The next, and probably the thorniest, issue on the Arab leaders' agenda is Arab-Arab relations and "Arab national security." This problem of course is as old as the present Arab Order itself. Relations between Arab states have always been tense: most borders are not fixed, claims and counter claims linger among Arab states and many have and some continue to plot against others — to name only a few. The chasm created by the Gulf war is still wide and deep. Although a few expect very little from the Cairo meeting, it is worth reminding the honourable men meeting there that unless a minimum level of cordiality, cooperation and reconciliation is achieved the Arab Order will continue to get weaker and weaker, not by the designs of its enemies alone but by the bickerings among its own components.

Two things need to be done in this regard: Stopping all meddling in each other's affairs, including a complete end for any violent acts; and starting confidence-building measures that would eventually pave the way for more open borders and increased cultural and trade exchanges.

On the first count, the countries that in one way or the other host exiled opposition groups to another should pledge not to allow those groups to carry out subversive action against that state. It is time that state-to-state affairs be conducted in civilised manners that shun violence that has for a long time marred Arab-Arab relations. Once acts of terrorism cease the Arab states should relax formalities at their borders, open their markets to each other and enhance cultural exchange and dialogue among their peoples.

If the leaders meeting in Cairo succeeded in agreeing on these principles, then a chapter of hope will have been opened and the way ahead somehow cleared.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FOCUSING ATTENTION on the Arab summit meeting in Cairo, Fahd Al Faneel, a writer for Al Ra'i, said that the three countries: Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia which called for the summit had their own reasons for the move. Syria, for instance, wants the coming meeting to focus attention on the Golan and expects full Arab support against Turkey, but Egypt wants from the coming summit to reassert its leading role in the Arab World and Saudi Arabia wants to manifest its adamant position, that of slowing the peace process so that it will have sufficient time to prepare the Saudi public to accept the idea of dealing with the Israelis and see the Israeli flag raised in Jeddah, said the writer. As for Jordan and Palestine, he said, they are the most concerned parties in the peace process and seek a durable peace and the implementation of the agreements concluded with Israel so far; the rest of the Arab countries will be there because they have been invited and have no problem regarding the decisions that would be taken. He said that most probably the coming summit would reiterate the Arab World's commitment to the peace option and demand that the Israelis respect their commitment to peace made under the previous government of Shimon Peres, added the writer.

A WRITER for Al Dustour launched a scathing attack on Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abdul Majid, accusing him of acting in a way that carries out Washington's wishes and desires in the Arab region. Youssef Al Athum said that by excluding Iraq from the coming summit, Abdul Majid has proved by deed rather than word that he is still an Egyptian government official intent on implementing the U.S. government's policies against the wishes of the Arab masses, including those of the oppressed people of Egypt, Washington, which seeks to keep Iraq in isolation and the Arabs split, has found in Abdul Majid the instrument to carry out this objective and protect Israel's interests, charged the writer. Referring to Abdul Majid's post as secretary general of the Arab League, the writer said that under any regulations or international protocols, the person who assumes such a post must be neutral and not taking sides with any party, but Abdul Majid has broken all rules.

Jordanian Perspective

'Arab reconciliation and solidarity should be the foundation of any effort to address Arab problems'

By Dr. Musa Keilani

ARAB LEADERS meet under one roof in Cairo today for the first time since 1990, spurred by the new realities in the Middle East peace process. The central theme remains of course ways and means to counter the headline posture of Israel under the leadership of the Likud Party and Benjamin Netanyahu that has raised serious questions over the very course of the peace process and hopes that the Arab-Israeli conflict was on its way towards a just and comprehensive settlement.

Despite the loud Arab expressions of alarm triggered by fears that the Palestinian struggle for an independent state may come to nought, just as the hopes for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and south Lebanon, it is difficult to see the Cairo summit coming up with a coherent approach to dealing with the issue except adopting a hardline Arab position vis-a-vis Israel. And that is to say that the root problems plaguing the Arab World could remain unaddressed and left to fester.

What is indeed disturbing us in Jordan is the reported secret Syrian-led effort to draft a resolution for the summit even before the Arab foreign ministers met to discuss an agenda for the conference. If we take the reports out of Cairo on face value, the purported draft resolution conditions normalisation of Arab relations with Israel to a just and equitable settlement to the Middle East conflict, addressing the core issue — Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

While we fully support the very concept of the reported draft — after all Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories the Jewish state occupied since 1967 is indeed the cherished goal of the peace process — we cannot but see the secret effort that created it as a bid to predetermine the outcome of the summit without really seeking the viewpoints

and opinions of the participants to the summit.

Add to that the differing agendas of the Arab countries attending the summit: Libya wants the summit to support its stand in the stand-off over the PanAm bombing; Sudan wants the summit to give a sympathetic ear and backing for its case against U.N. sanction stemming from the assassination attempt against Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak; Algeria is seeking Arab endorsement of its moves to quell Islamic militancy; Bahrain is pursuing an effort to get the Arab summit to condemn Iran and warn Tehran against meddling in Bahraini affairs; Morocco's King Hassan is upset that he was not consulted before the decision was made to convene the summit and would definitely make that point clear through his prime minister; Qatar would like the summit to hear its complaint against what it sees as implicit support by fellow Gulf states for its deposed emir's bid to reverse the palace coup that brought his son to power; the UAE would like to see the summit reaffirming Arab support in its dispute with Tehran over three Gulf islands.

No doubt, the ambassador of Somalia who will represent his country would appeal to the summit to launch an all-embracing Arab effort to resolve the problems of his chaotic country and feed its people.

We do not know yet what countries like the Comoros and Mauritania would demand from the summit, but for sure they have their own agendas.

In this labyrinth of differing priorities, where is the central theme: dangers posed to the peace process as will be raised by Syrian, Lebanon and the Palestinians? Are we going to see horse-trading at the summit, where every participant would give his country's support for a common Arab position only in return for the summit's endorsement

of that country's demands?

That is where the sound position of Jordan comes into play. The Kingdom is going to the summit with an open mind, but based on a distinct and unambiguous position that Arab reconciliation and solidarity should be the foundation of any effort to address Arab problems through the summit. Once the Arabs succeed in laying that foundation, the rest should be relatively easy since the very idea behind Arab solidarity is support by one Arab country for another's just causes and demands. This may not be fully applicable at the Cairo summit, given that Egypt is behind the effort to sanction Sudan and that Qatar's complaint could be levelled against some of its neighbours for backing the deposed emir. But these are not permanent features of the Arab World and would only take a sincere and devoted effort to address differing Arab viewpoints over them.

Clearly, Jordan has these considerations in mind when it says that the summit should not come up with decisions favouring one Arab country over another. Again, the principle here is clear: if there is a coherent Arab position based on reconciliation and solidarity, then there is no question of any decision being against the interest of any Arab country.

So, the starting point for the summit should be a well-focused effort to reinvigorate the idea of common Arab interests and causes, and then take off from that point towards external challenges facing the Arab World, including the shifts in the realities of peace with Israel.

Unless that is achieved, then the whole Cairo summit will be a futile exercise and could even lead to further schism in the Arab World.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Arab leaders in Cairo should show firm common stand, flexibility

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

THE ARAB summit meeting opening Friday in Cairo, Israel's new government and its plans, pan-Arab affairs and domestic issues figured high in the articles appearing in the local Arabic dailies over the past week.

Writing under the title "The test for the summit", a writer for Al Ra'i said that the Arab leaders should place the Palestine question and the establishment of a Palestinian state at the top of their agenda.

The Palestinians ought to be backed in their struggle and various efforts on all fronts to regain their lost rights and their usurped lands, said Sultan Al Hattab.

Now that the Arabs are meeting to deal with the new threats to the peace process, their leaders should realise that the main issue behind the whole Arab-Israeli conflict is Palestine and it is on this issue that they must come to an agreement on a joint action.

At the same time, these leaders should support Jordan in its endeavours to seek the implementation of the peace treaty with Israel and respect Syria's views and reservations regarding the peace with the Jewish state, he said. The Arab leaders should allow for flexibility in their dealings with Israel and must show that they are genuinely seeking a lasting settlement.

The Arab summit meeting in Cairo was deemed necessary before the downfall of Shimon Peres and the emergence of Benjamin Netanyahu because the Arab countries needed it to settle their internal differences and establish solidarity without which they remain weak and impotent, said Saleh Qallab, a writer for Al Dustour.

As the world approaches the 21st century, it witnesses the creation of economic blocs and alliances among states with similar or common interests and it is incumbent on the Arab countries which share common objectives to chart their own alliance and unify their ranks rather than harbour enmity towards one another, called the writer.

He said Israel is the same under Netanyahu or under Peres and the seeming differences between them are merely tactical and the

Arabs should not show fear of the new man in Israel but rather manifest determination and take practical steps to deal with the Israeli danger as a whole.

The Arab masses expect the summit in Cairo to achieve success and this can be best demonstrated by the emergence of a homogenous, unified and strong Arab bloc capable of taking unified decisions and resolutions and standing in one rank in the face of the new challenges posed by Israel, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i.

Needless to say that the outcome of the Israeli elections and the emergence of right-wing groups that adopt stringent positions vis-a-vis the Arabs require from the Arab leaders in Cairo to study the situation with care and wisdom and adopt practical policies to deal with the new situation, said the writer.

At the same time, people expect from the summit to discuss the Arab World's relations with Iran and Turkey because both states have their own influences on the course of events in this region, he added. The Arab League, said the writer, should spearhead efforts to improve the Arab countries' relations with their two neighbours, as well as remove differences marring inter-Arab relations.

A writer for Al Dustour said that the summit was called for by three Arab states following their summit meeting in Damascus and not by the Arab League and therefore one could expect that not all representations at the coming meeting would be at the level of heads of state, in a show of dissatisfaction.

Taher Adwan said that most probably Syria, which was instrumental in convening the summit, would place its own issue with Israel on the top of the summit's agenda and would raise the question of Arab-Iranian and Arab-Turkish relations as well.

But it is important to point out that the success of the summit lies primarily in settling disputes between Syria itself and the other Arab states because without ending inter-Arab difference there can be no chance for the summit to achieve success, said the writer, adding that it should be emphasised that Washington's reported demand, made through Egypt, that the Arabs refrain from taking a hos-

tile stand against Netanyahu would also acquire the leaders' attention and affect their decisions.

Let us hope, he said, that the outcome would best serve the Arab interests as a whole, rather than any other party.

Writing in Al Dustour, columnist Mohammad Kawash said that Netanyahu's policy is finally known to all. The new leader of Israel does not tolerate the creation of a Palestinian state, refuses to withdraw from the Golan and will continue the process of building Jewish settlements on Arab land, he said.

In this situation, there can be no chance for the resumption of the Syrian-Israeli or Palestinian-Israeli negotiations since there is nothing left for negotiations, he stressed.

The writer said that Netanyahu has clearly adopted a policy that runs counter to that of his predecessor and conflicts with the idea of durable peace with the Arab states, something which requires a concerted Arab stand.

This view is supported strongly by Sultan Al Hattab, a writer for Al Ra'i, who said that with this policy, Netanyahu has overstepped the red lines and has gone back on the peace process. By his policies, Netanyahu is ruining the peace process on all fronts and not just with the Palestinians, rendering all the agreements concluded with the Arabs, to date, meaningless.

The writer said that by accepting peace, the Arab states do not mean that they accept the Israeli stand and succumb to Netanyahu's wishes and they can by no means accept the new Israeli terms for peace which mean no withdrawal from Arab lands and no recognition of the right of the Palestinians to an independent state.

Discussing Iraq, Saleh Qallab, a writer for Al Dustour, said there can be no justification for the U.N. inspectors to enter the headquarters of the Iraqi presidential guards since this constitutes an infringement on the country's own security and sovereignty. Iraq has implemented all U.N. resolutions and the United States, which is taking a hostile stand against Iraq at the Security Council, realises that the Iraqi leadership does not conceal mass destruction

weapons any more, said the writer.

He said that by insisting that the inspection teams carry out this mission, the Clinton administration is aiming at drawing attention to external issues in a bid to help him win the coming presidential elections. The writer accused the U.N. of working for the interests of Washington and not towards the establishment of peace in our region.

Discussing acceptance of students in private and state-owned universities, a writer for Al Dustour said that the entrance examination required by these universities starting the coming academic year is considered a very practical step towards ending the annual crisis of enrolling students for higher education.

Mohammad Daoud said that as it is projected now, this system, which only gives 25 per cent of the rating to this examination, helps reduce the problem but is not sufficient.

He said that the universities' entrance examination should be given 50 per cent, equal to the results of the tajwili examinations, so that the results can be fair.

He said the Jordanian graduates from foreign universities have enrolled there not solely on the strength of the tajwili examinations but on the basis of their performance at the entrance examinations.

A writer for Al Ra'i daily criticised the mufti of Saudi Arabia who had ruled that a woman going out for work side by side with men commits an act of adultery and marital infidelity.

Zeid Hanzeh said that such a statement harms the honour of hundreds of millions of working women around the world, including the Muslim women in Jordan.

These women, he stressed, go out to work in order to earn a decent living for their families and carry out a very honourable act to serve their society, said the writer adding that the religious leaders of Jordan, including the minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs, should issue a reply to this notorious ruling, and it is the duty of women's unions in the Arab countries to counter such statement which, he said, tends to distort the image of Islam.

LETTERS

On the line, again

To the Editor:

With reference to Mohammad Atiyeh's letter "Monopoly no solution to inefficiency" (Jordan Times, June 18, 1996) and Nisreen Al Husry's reply "Crossed communication" (Jordan Times, June 19, 1996), I would like to say that, in all fairness to Fastlink, the quality of service offered by Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (JMTS) is of a high standard, especially when compared to the "services" and so called long-term planning of Jordan's government owned Telecommunications Corporation (TCC). Nevertheless, Mr. Atiyeh is correct in stating that rates offered by Fastlink are among the highest. The price of any goods or services should be indexed to the GNP of the country in which they are being offered and only then can a true comparison be made.

Furthermore, I accept that all "pioneering" companies go through "teething problems." However, this should not be at the expense of its customers' pockets, i.e., as queried to and confirmed by Fastlink's customer service, calls that are "half connected", answered by the receiving end and yet not heard by the dialling party, as well as calls that are cut off in the first few seconds of the conversation and that are billed as chargeable minutes. This is not acceptable.

Might I be bold enough to suggest that Fastlink not charge its customers for calls that end in the first few seconds (enough time to realise whether your call has been properly connected or not)?

Nobody expects Fastlink to offer a flawless and free service. However, we do expect Fastlink to be fair and take a more diplomatic attitude towards its customers' criticism, just as we expect from customers to be patient during the company's early stages of development.

Kamil Nader,
Amman.

Enemy vs. friendly fire

To the Editor:

ONE THING I have heartily welcomed is modern technology. The other day's "show" in the Israeli Knesset, between the incoming and the outgoing prime ministers, was worth watching, even though I do not understand the language.

I loved the way the mass media was trying to be as efficient as the CNN, talking spontaneously to the upper-handed officials, and was thrilled to see Mr. Peres' good-byes and Mr. Netanyahu's bodyguards elbowing everybody fiercely, including pushing away one of the girls with the microphones. Everyone approaching was equally humiliated.

As a Palestinian born 1927 in Jerusalem, I have never seen any of the so-called Israeli democratic procedures ever practised where I and many others are concerned. I have been on the receiving end of the enemy fire in the Middle East, and especially Beirut, both at home and at work. I no more sympathise with the fact that the Arab World should pay for the holocaust. It is a German and European responsibility, a subject that has been exhausted, and its oral history is full of holes.

We have our own ancestors, our own infrastructure to build, our own socio-economic and family frameworks. Let alone our political language, which we have neglected because we were only left time to pursue a hand-to-mouth existence.

The more affluent Palestinians outside the enclaves and camps have found lucrative commercial projects and have left the public sector, when their funds were low, to return now with the funding of donor countries to try their luck at claiming a large profit.

In conclusion, I doubt that with enemy fire having been so fierce, including the recent "Grapes of Wrath" operation in Lebanon, and with friendly fire being yet fiercer, that we stand to gain entrance as tourists, expecting the shoving around to still continue.

What do I stand to gain, still holding a Jordanian document, when I see all my children, my relatives, my neighbours and siblings able to come and go and I am being told to renounce and nobody tells me what the proper routing is.

Is the alternative to keep collecting and amassing and filing all sorts of useless documents?

Well, I hope that some day these boring documents will be useful to whoever gets them in his or her inheritance.

Leila Al Khalidi Al Hussein,
Amman.



By Dr. Musa Kalla

'Education may be one of the most successful responses to today's challenges'

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...should control three Gulf islands... Mr. Musa said that policies of the new Israeli prime minister threaten the peace process and added the summit would send a "clear-cut and prudent" message to Israel and the international community as the sponsor of Arab-Israeli talks.

...The first Arab summit in six years was called by Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia after the election on May 29 of the hardline Netanyahu.

...At least 13 heads of state will attend the summit, along with princes and prime ministers. As well as a unified stand on Israel, they will have to deal with their own differences, chiefly the split over whether Iraq will be let back into the Arab fold.

FOLLOWING ARE excerpts from the address delivered by Husni 'Ayesha at the Muslim-Christian consultation on "The educational system is Islam and Christianity" organised by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Al al Bayt in cooperation with The Orthodox Centre in Chambsy, Switzerland, held in Amman between June 3-5, 1990:

The fast and accelerating change, expanding globalisation, owed to the mass media and the electronic system, international economic interlinkage, mutual international dependency and the informational and cognitive explosions are among the significant features of our epoch.

The stress that accompanies these features, i.e. their requirements, challenges, problems and shortcomings and even their dangers: psychological, social, educational, cultural and political, has become so intense and urgent that no one, individual or society, can afford the luxury of overlooking or turning his back to them.

Perhaps the most significant problem in the Muslim World is that these features of modernisation challenge our beliefs, values, attitudes, practices, information and knowledge in a manner which Alvin Toffler, about more than a decade ago, called the "future shock".

Another challenge posed by life today is the dependence of the individual's social status, position and distinction on his own achievements and ability to learn and not on the family, tribe or traditional background.

Education, provided it is good, with its stages, types and forms may be one of the most successful responses to these challenges or the suitable means

for tackling them and reducing their problems, defects and dangers.

Thus, a sound educational system, from an Islamic standpoint, should include several features, including responsibility, conformity, critical thinking, democracy.

Every Muslim state should make every school-age child, regardless of sex, go to school.

Compulsory basic education has become one of the human rights of our time and a sine qua non for any type of progress after it has been established that human capital is the basis, and requirement, for such progress.

The Muslim World has witnessed a sharp decline in the elementary or basic among enrolment rate and a high drop-out ratio school-leavers, which has made the general rate of illiteracy among Muslims one of the highest in the world (about 75 per cent).

Education nowadays is being overwhelmed by numerous challenges, the most significant of which is perhaps the huge and continuous information explosion and the numerous problems concomitant with or resulting from the technological and economic developments.

This has led to introducing various subjects in the school curriculum, some of which are necessary while others are not, which has made it multidisciplinary but not teaching skills.

Children have also become more mere school goers than learning and education receivers; they graduate from all stages and streams of education and yet they are extremely weak in basic skills.

Caliph Al Ma'mun was quoted to have said once: "Learning is too profound to totally grasp and comprehensively explore; there-

fore start with the more important parts of it."

Although Islam itself has not distinguished between men and women in education and has not imposed any limits thereon, Muslim societies, for social and economic reasons, have made such a distinction and

"Although Islam itself has not distinguished between men and women in education and has not imposed any limits thereon, Muslim societies, for social and economic reasons, have made such a distinction and imposed limits on such education."

In fact the comprehensive Islamic educational reality does not provide for equality between the two sexes, and education is full of horizontal and vertical restrictions. Therefore, the required educational system has to abide by equality or democracy in such a manner as to eliminate discrimination between the two sexes and remove the prevailing gender restrictions.

Education should be free from arbitrary measures and from monopolisation of decisions by the educational, administrative bod-

ies. Flexibility demands that the school, college and university doors remain open to everyone who, for one reason or another, failed to join the educational system.

Teachers have always been heavily engaged in prompting students, memorisation drills, inculcation and short-term memory measurement through daily, weekly, monthly, semesterly, annual exams, and they have made students memorise for examinations.

I have counted over three thousand tests and exams performed by the pupil in Jordan, from the first to the twelfth grade.

The outcome of all this has always been directing the teachers', and the students', efforts towards memorisation or learning by heart the subject matter for the examination day at the expense of learning methodically. This teaching followed an opposite direction to that of Islam which urges Muslims, as do modern theories of learning, to link theory with practice and laboratory work where students rediscover scientific laws as scientists do.

This would narrow the gap between academic and vocational education and make the graduate reasonably well-equipped for work or ready to embark thereon with only a small amount of training on the site, and make education more production than consumption-oriented.

All Ibn Abi Taleb said: "Everyone is valued by the work he skillfully performs." Another traditional aphorism says the mind is like the sword and experience is like the whetstone.

And if the educational system could survive in that manner and form in the past, it will be able to do so in the age of information, the age of mass media, data banks and networks, the

computer age.

What is required of the educational system may be to teach the students the methodology and jargon of each science.

A student may learn all the grammatical rules of Arabic language, for example, and answer all the questions related without knowing how to write a complete meaningful sentence, i.e., expressing his ideas in a sound Arabic language that fulfills the conditions of these grammatical rules. What he is required to do is to successfully pass tests regarding these rules but the school, college and university have no objection if he fails to produce any linguistic practical application (e.g., writing a letter, a report, a story) or enjoys appreciating such rules.

An important feature is democracy in education. I mean by that spreading the democratic atmosphere in the classroom and exercising democracy therein. The educational system must reflect the society's political orientations on the one hand and develop them for the better on the other.

Teaching methods based on caring and repression are obsolete, perhaps because there is no longer one answer for the same question as was previously the case; for even in applied sciences, laws are probable and not definitive. The teaching curriculum itself, moreover, is democratic by nature (stipulating hypotheses and then testing them one by one).

Omar Ibn Al Khatib said about restrictions imposed on freedom: "When did you enslave people while they were born free?" In his approval of criticism he also said: "You will be worthless if you do not speak out your viewpoint and we will be equally worthless if we do not listen

to it." Students should be given the chance to participate in the decisions regarding them and be prepared to play the role of responsible citizens in society.

In the age of trans-national mass media, man is more and more in need of relying on his own mental capacities, which necessitates the development of his thinking talents through learning and practice. Students should be taught critical thinking, reading, observation and listening lest they become victims of misguidance and in order to become good citizens who do not fanatically adhere to one viewpoint or uncritically side with the opposite point of view.

Since the transformation of the subsistence and barter economy into an industrial and technological economy, and the conversion of the family from a productive group into a consumer group, and its children from assets into liabilities, a revolution in values has taken place: egoism has replaced altruism, social violence has taken the place of social peace and spiritualism has been set aside in favour of materialism.

Muslim societies, for many reasons, may be among those most affected by this metamorphosis, perhaps because they are still in the transitional stage between the two economies.

This can possibly explain a great deal of the behaviour of these societies, particularly their production of extremist and violent groups and organisations. This certainly requires, in addition to other prerequisites regarding illiteracy, poverty and unemployment, that attention be paid to moral and spiritual education.

Education should be required continually, for

Prophet Mohammad says: "Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave."

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"Children of different societies come to school after they have learnt the languages and basic skills, difficult and different as they are, that are required for their survival in their societies. If the children's aptitudes and abilities were limited, they would not be able to learn the language and basic skills required for meeting their needs therein. This makes us believe in the ability of every child, including the handicapped, to learn and even excel in a particular field."

Muslim societies are well-aware of the international dimension of citizenship; for we all, on this planet, are partners or citizens of the global village, and hence the educa-

tional system is expected to conform with the call of Islam to interact and deal with other peoples.

The strong international dimension requires more effort on the part of the educational system to pay due attention to teaching the students more than one foreign language, but at a functional level. A Canadian student learning Chinese said: "Learning this language enables me talk with over one billion people." The same idea, but over 1,400 years ago, was strongly advocated by Prophet Mohammad.

Most, if not all, educational systems in Muslim countries hold the learner and not the teacher/educational administration, responsible for his school performance. Although these theories are being undermined by criticism, research, egalitarian ideology and human rights, they do exercise very substantial powers in the Muslim school. This continued power is largely due to the exonerating of the teacher/educational administration from the responsibility of academic performance and laying it at the threshold of the child/learner, which has led to classification, grading, labelling and rise in failure and dropping out rates.

Children of different societies come to school after they have learnt the languages and basic skills, difficult and different as they are, that are required for their survival in their societies. If the children's aptitudes and abilities were limited, they would not be able to learn the language and basic skills required for meeting their needs therein. This makes us believe in the ability of every child, including the handicapped, to learn and even excel in a particular field.

King meets Arab leaders

(Continued from page 1)

Aziz. But it looked unlikely, according to sources here, that a bilateral meeting would take place between the King and Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Sheikh Saad is known to oppose normalisation of relations with Jordan and heal the strain caused by the 1991 Gulf crisis. The ruling circle in Kuwait is reportedly split over the issue. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, a proponent of normalisation

ties with Jordan, withdrew himself from the summit delegation and took a "holiday" in Morocco after an argument with Sheikh Sabah over the issue, according to reports.

Jordanian officials said a meeting between the King and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was also possible and expected the encounter, if it takes place, to be a turning point in Jordanian-Syrian relations, which turned cool after the Kingdom signed its peace treaty with Israel in October 1994.

According to informed sources, there was an exchange on this question at yesterday's meeting between Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa. And it went further to touch on the other sensitive issue of terrorist attempts originating from Syrian territory against the stability of Jordan.

"But the exchange did not develop into a clash since the two parties wanted to contribute and appeared headed towards making the conference a success," an informed source told the Jordan Times.

"Hopefully there will be a meeting between His Majesty the King and President Hafez Al Assad, and this problem can be tackled and solved," Dr. Muasher said. "Jordan is very serious about countering terrorist threats, wherever they come from, and for whatever reason they are committed, as His Majesty will make abundantly clear in his speech to the summit tomorrow," he added.

"In this also we have the unprecedented backing of Arab states whether from the Maghreb, Yemen or from the Gulf, which suffer from essentially the same threats."

Jordanian officials said they were not completely surprised by the reconciliatory Syrian approach since, they added, it was in Syria's strategic interests to ensure the success of the summit.

"For our part," said a Jordanian official, "we have always advocated Arab reconciliation and collective action."

Arab summit opens today

(Continued from page 1)

will not attack anyone unless we are attacked."

So strongly do the Gulf countries, particularly the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, feel about foreign-backed threats against their security that they insist on naming and condemning Iran in the final communiqué, the informed sources told the Jordan Times. But the Syrians may veto any resolution in this regard, especially that the influential Arab leaders do not want to denounce Turkey for its "hostile" attitude towards water-sharing with Syria and Iraq.

"Turkey will be mentioned in the communiqué," an informed source said, "but the language which will be used in its relations with the Arabs will be rather broad and generally friendly."

Other than mentioning this regional dimension, the affirmation of the Arabs' commitment to the peace process, their opposition to the Jewish settlement policy, and above all their insistence on the centrality of the Palestinian issue to the whole Arab-Israeli conflict, the final communiqué and the resolutions of the summit will strike a conciliatory note as far as inter-Arab relations are concerned.

The leaders are expected to stress the need to revive political and economic cooperation and coordination, rebuild joint institutions within the framework of the Arab League, leave the door open for the rehabilitation of Iraq, lend backing to peaceful efforts between Yemen and Eritrea to solve their dispute over the Red Sea islands of Hanish and emphasise the comprehensiveness and indivisibility of pan-Arab national security, the informed sources said.

"There will be two full days of deliberations to tackle what is really a packed and important agenda," Dr. Muasher said. "Let us hope that this summit will at least find the right vehicles and mechanisms to revive joint Arab action and to devise the institutional framework in which this can be done."

The official also pointed out that Prime Minister Kabariti had said that "we

Israel: Dialogue is key

(Continued from page 1)

said. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa urged the new Israeli government to reconsider its policies and resume negotiations on the basis of old agreements. But the Arab summit would not send Israel any threats or warnings, he added.

"We expect him to reconsider the guidelines his government has issued and statements which were very upsetting and very threatening to the peace process and to all of us," he said.

"It takes two parties to seek peace and it is the responsibility therefore not only of the Arabs but in particular of Israel that the principles of the peace process be respected, that the negotiations resume and resume on the basis of the principles agreed upon," he added.

But asked if the Arab states would consider abandoning normalisation with the Jewish state, he said: "There is no language that would be a message of a threat or a message of warning. There will be positions and very clear position."

Washington, wanting to save its regional policy, has urged Arabs to give Mr. Netanyahu a chance, and look beyond his campaign rhetoric.

The Clinton administration has seized upon any sign of Mr. Netanyahu's "moderation" in an attempt to calm Arab anxiety, in particular that of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat who, aides say, was devastated by the defeat of Mr. Peres.

Washington is urging Mr. Netanyahu to complete the first phase of the two-stage, Oslo self-rule agreement signed with Mr. Arafat in 1993.

It is despatching Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Israel next week with this message. Mr. Christopher will also prepare Mr. Netanyahu for his first trip to the White House in July.

Completing phase one means withdrawing Israeli

Kabariti assails Iran

(Continued from page 1)

from the session. "We hope it can be translated into some kind of decision that will help the cause of peace and Arab solidarity," he said.

Mr. Kabariti said earlier Jordan would strongly oppose any attempts to manipulate the Middle East peace process towards achieving ends incompatible with international law and the Arab consensus.

Mr. Kabariti said Jordan supports efforts for the restoration of Arab rights through peace negotiations with Israel, but stressed that no one party should have a monopoly on how to move forward.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan Times and the London-based Al Hayat newspaper, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan would oppose any moves by the new Israeli government to "change the ground rules or the points of reference" for the peace process started in Madrid in 1991.

In the same vein, Jordan would oppose attempts by Syria to "monopolise the Arab position vis-a-vis the peace process."

Mr. Kabariti urged Arab states attending the conference to "abandon selectivity and double-standards" when dealing with questions related to Arab national security. He explained that "threats to Arab Gulf states are no less important than threats to Mediterranean Arab states."

He added that there was a need for an Arab coordination to face common challenges. He also stressed the need "not to allow any party to manipulate the Arab position at the expense of other Arab parties."

Mr. Kabariti said that Jordan's main goal was to "forge a minimum level of Arab solidarity towards building on peace achievements." He warned that Arab solidarity "could not be achieved by having one party impose its point of view on the others. It must be built on an understanding that coordination is a two-way road and not only an attempt by one party to benefit at the expense of others."

The premier said that a big responsibility falls on the shoulders of the new Israeli government to enhance prospects for progress in the peace process.

"We have to work towards building on what we already achieved," Mr. Kabariti said. "There is no room for foot-dragging which undermines momentum and weakens enthusiasm for peace."

On Jordanian-Syrian relations, the prime minister said the Arab summit could provide an opportunity for starting a constructive dialogue aimed at enhancing Arab solidarity on a basis of mutual respect and common interests.

He said that while Syria had a right to seek support for its demands to peacefully restore its territories occupied by Israel, "it has no right to give protection to terrorist organisations that only aim to undermine the peace effort."

"How can we talk about peace efforts to enhance the peace process while some Arab parties give refuge and support to forces that seek to undermine this process?" Mr. Kabariti asked.

But Mr. Netanyahu's election has at least partially unified the Arabs, and they have grown increasingly worried as his government has issued policy guidelines opposing the return of the Golan Heights to Syria and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

At Khadidi Al Haddad

...the influence

Hebronites stage protest

(Continued from page 1)

accord stipulates that Palestinians take control of security except for areas where Jewish settlers live.

Netanyahu spokesman Shai Bazak said the reports were only speculative and that no decisions have been

made on Hebron.

Mr. Netanyahu met Friday with his defence and foreign ministers to discuss government policy on Hebron.

The mayor of Hebron, Mustafa Natche, warned that any violation of the autonomy accord would halt peace talks.

Netanyahu said he was "committed to continue the quest for peace and security."

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Palestinians nudge Jordan banks on loans

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordanian bankers said Thursday that the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) decision to withdraw some of its holdings of Jordanian dinars this week reflected anger at banks' failure to lend in the Palestinian territories.

The Gaza-based Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA), which took over banking supervision in the West Bank from Israel at the end of 1995, has been prodding Jordanian banks to raise lending in the territories to boost economic growth.

PMA officials privately say they are increasingly uncomfortable with Jordanian banks making profits on cheap funds trans-

ferred to their Amman head offices for reinvestment in high-yielding Jordan Central Bank debt instruments.

The PMA wants them to seek more lending opportunities in the capital-hungry Palestinian self-rule areas.

Banks have been reluctant to heed that advice, arguing that wide-scale lending was still too risky in the West Bank because of political uncertainty and the lack of legal guarantees on mortgages, bankers say.

"Banks have taken a very cautious policy towards lending because of the understandable risks... this has been the main bone of contention between banks and the PMA in almost all the meetings between them," a senior Jordanian banker told Reuters.

The deposit transfers,

which have not been quantified, came from an estimated 60 million dinars (\$85 million) so far accumulated by the PMA after imposing a 14 per cent compulsory reserve requirement on dinar deposits held by banks in the self-rule areas.

Bankers suspect the transfer is a hint to banks to play a more active role in the self-rule areas' economy as losses grow from an Israeli closure imposed after a series of suicide bombings by Palestinian militant group Hamas which killed 59 people in February and March.

However, an official source in the PMA, which has wide supervisory control over 15 banks and 58 branches — mostly offshoots of Jordanian banks operating in Gaza and the

West Bank — denied the move had any political significance and said it was purely technical.

Banks in self-rule areas hold over 500 million dinars as part of total deposits which were worth more than \$1.175 billion at the end of 1995. With expansion of self-rule, deposits soared over 165 per cent in 1995 alone.

Nearly a third of Jordan's over 1.1 billion dinars in circulation are in the West Bank and Gaza. Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is based on a January 1995 monetary accord, a product of subtle rivalry over monetary control that masks wider political competition, economists say.

Brokers describe mood at AFM as 'grim'

By a Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

AMMAN — Prices continued to take a beating at the Jordanian stock exchange amid high uncertainty among the business community over prospects for peace in the Middle East following the election of a hardline right-wing government in Israel, brokers said Friday.

They described the general mood in the market as grim and said the stagnation in prices would continue unless fresh capital enters the bourse. This was possible, they said, given that foreign investors get into a buying spree when the prices of blue chips are down.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said turnover for the week ending Thursday was 3.1 million dinars, compared with last week's 3.5 million dinars.

The official share price index based on the stocks of 60 major companies closed at 141.73 points, down 1.88 points or 1.31 per cent from the week's opening of 143.61 points.

Sectoral indices showed services sector stocks dipping by 1.86 per cent, industrials by 1.65 per cent, commercial banks and

financial institutions by 1.01 per cent and insurance by 0.21 per cent.

Industrials accounted for 1.84 million dinars of the weekly turnover, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with 910,000 dinars, services sector firms with 320,000 dinars and insurance companies with 35,000 dinars.

Shares of 95 companies were traded during the week, with six of them closing with gains, 76 slipping and 13 remaining unchanged, the AFM report said. It said 2.7 million shares changed hands under 2,599 deals struck during the week, with daily average trading at 600,000 dinars, compared with the previous week's 900,000 dinars.

Pearl Consulting, a private sector firm which maintains its own market indices, said the drop in prices was 2.03 per cent for the week and 13.81 per cent since the beginning of the year. Pearl indices showed that commercial banks and financial institutions dipped by 1.36 per cent, insurance stocks by 0.54 per cent, service sector shares by 1.17 per cent and industrials by 1.65 per cent.

A further split-up showed that commercial banks dipped by 1.27 per cent,

investment banks by 1.87 per cent, specialised banks by 2.04 per cent and Islamic banks by 2.53 per cent.

In the services sector, energy firms lost 3.78 per cent, tourism companies and hotels by 0.55 per cent, transport companies by 1.45 per cent, investment and real estate firms by 3.15 per cent and firms in the field of education and others by 0.8 per cent.

Among industrials, mining firms dipped by 0.09 per cent, chemical and petroleum by 2.84 per cent, construction by 0.7 per cent, supply and consumption by 0.48 per cent, pharmaceuticals by 4.96 per cent, engineering by 6.34 per cent, textiles by 0.82 per cent and packing by 1.54 per cent.

The decline in share prices was for the seventh week running and countered hopes of a recovery in the market beginning this month in line with a government promise to bring down high interest rates of commercial bank deposits in dinars. Officials said the monetary authority was poised to bring down interest rates offered on short and medium-term deposits in dinars. Such reduction is seen to have a chain effect on commercial bank interest rates and bring back funds into the bourse.

However, a cut in interest rates "is simply not enough at this point in time because investors are scared that the results of the Israeli elections would severely hamper the Middle East peace process," said an AFM dealer, who, like other stockbrokers in Jordan, cannot be identified by name.

The dealer was referring to the May 29 election victory of right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister of Israel and the emergence of a hardline government under him that is seen to have dealt a serious blow of Arab hopes of an equitable peace agreement. "Any setback to the peace process will have serious repercussions on the Jordanian economy and local businesses' hopes of increased economic ties with the Palestinians" in the West Bank and Gaza, said the broker.

"Furthermore, any lack of progress in the Palestinian track of negotiations will have a negative impact on prospects for Jordanian-Israeli trade," added the broker. "As such, unless there is a serious indication that Netanyahu would pursue the same line in the peace process as his predecessor, then Jordanian stock prices are going to remain on a downward slide."

Internal Arab investment plunges

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Inter-Arab investment has plunged although many regional states have launched reforms to attract capital and tackle economic woes, an Omani official said Monday.

From around \$923 million in 1990, investment within the 22-member Arab League dived to \$365 million in 1994, said Hamad Al Riyami, head of the economic committee at the Omani Shura (advisory) Council.

By the end of 1994, cumulative investment among Arab states has totalled \$12.7 billion compared with their overseas assets of between \$700 billion and \$850 billion, he told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej.

"This means that inter-Arab investments do not exceed two per cent of the total Arab investment abroad."

OECD sees room for lower Europe interest rate to boost growth

PARIS (AFP) — Economic growth will remain modest in the OECD area overall this year despite a more broadly based Japanese recovery, robust U.S. expansion and a projected second-half pickup in Europe, the OECD said Thursday.

The 27 nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) warned, however, that continental Europe would need "a rapid turnaround" in business and

consumer confidence to get out of its nearly year-long downswing.

It also noted that further spending cuts to meet the Maastricht criteria for monetary union, just announced by key European Union (EU) countries, including Germany and France, could

entail lower than projected growth.

Accordingly, the OECD said, Germany and those of its European partners pursuing the most credible monetary policies should have room for further easing of

(Continued on page 9)...

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR
SATURDAY JUNE 22,
1996By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You get excellent ideas today which can be put in motion which can bring you fine results. Keep active and happy in your everyday activities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Follow your intuition today and you can expand more quickly and intelligently. Someone of a different background can help you to succeed.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Show more appreciation for your fellow associates and you can reach a far better understanding. Study some new outlet.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Organise your career activities with a fellow associate in the morning today, and then you can perform well together on some new project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You need more recreation so plan it for the evening. Get your finest talents working during the daytime today so that you can become more successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do whatever will bring more harmony at home today, and be happier in that important sphere of your endeavour for you to be prosperous.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can communicate well with others in the morning today and can get right into action. Make sure that statements are accurate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You find ways to add considerably to your assets at this time and get right down to specifics. A bigwig gives excellent ideas.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can go after your personal aims with enthusiasm and be very practical as well. Visit with close friends and have some good times.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) The morning today is good for gaining the personal pleasures you like, and after lunch you can be successful in the outside world.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Concentrate on whatever acquaintances you want to turn into friendships in the morning today and then bring them to fruition.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be sure to meet the expectations of higher-ups and gain the right benefits. Gain the favours you desire with enthusiasm.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citrine.



ARAB BANK

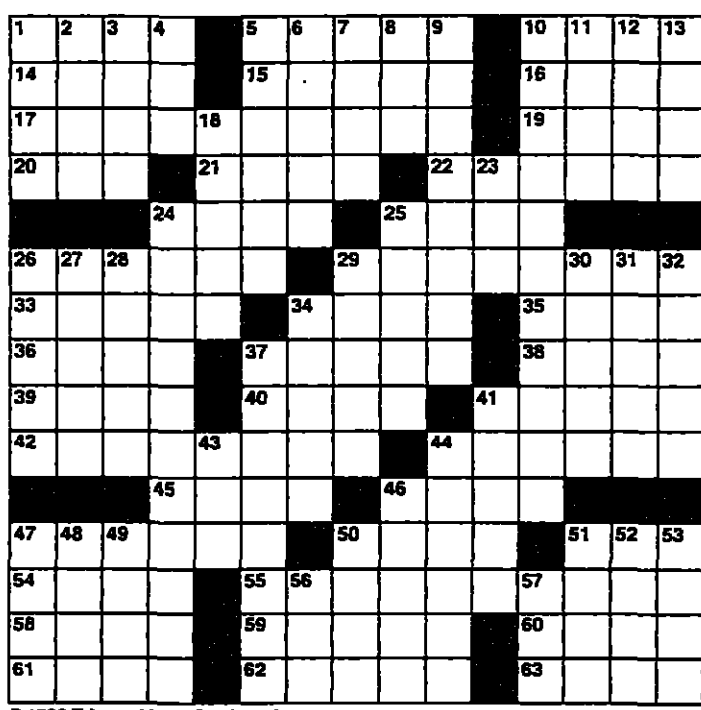
PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR
JORDAN MOBILE TELEPHONE
SERVICES CO. (FASTLINK)

ARAB BANK ANNOUNCES THAT
FASTLINK SUBSCRIBERS CAN NOW
SETTLE THEIR MONTHLY BILLS
THROUGH ARAB BANK BRANCHES.

WE DEVELOP OUR SERVICES FOR
YOUR COMFORT

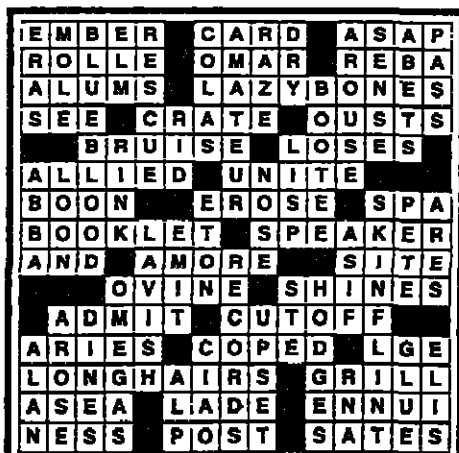
THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kenworthy

- ACROSS
- 1 — vu
 - 5 Glove material
 - 10 Class or five start
 - 14 Black Sea arm
 - 15 Kind of finger
 - 16 Extra
 - 17 Amity
 - 19 Have the lead
 - 20 Thrash
 - 21 Bullfight cheers
 - 22 City on the Rio Grande
 - 24 Old ending
 - 25 152
 - 26 Used a tub
 - 29 Gifted
 - 33 Bitter
 - 34 Dried
 - 35 Talented
 - 36 Footprint
 - 37 Equine
 - 38 Fencing item
 - 39 — avail (useless)
 - 40 Liquid measure
 - 41 Of musical sound
 - 42 With skill
 - 44 Nobelist nun
 - 45 Let it stand
 - 46 Sharpen
 - 47 Make malleable
 - 50 Late night host
 - 51 Caviar base
 - 54 Operatic solo
 - 55 Franchise
 - 58 Superman Clark
 - 59 Ear or tube
 - 60 Graph beginning
 - 61 Alternative word
 - 62 School officers
 - 63 Comfort



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- DOWN
- 1 Loco
 - 2 Post Pound
 - 3 Unite
 - 4 Blvd.
 - 5 Moved unobtrusively
 - 6 Indy racer, Al
 - 7 Old English letters
 - 8 Agnus —
 - 9 Ejected
 - 10 Gilbert and Sullivan satire
 - 11 Bit
 - 12 Mardi —
 - 13 Sandwich type
 - 18 Famous
 - 23 Make false statements
 - 24 Nation symbolized
 - 25 Mark of insertion
 - 26 Trump in some card games
 - 27 Thesplan
 - 28 Italian city
 - 29 Wee
 - 30 Meat cut
 - 31 Inventor Howe
 - 32 Perry's Street
 - 34 Clown's prop
 - 37 Magnificent
 - 41 Choir member
 - 43 Indian
 - 44 Powdery inks
 - 46 Reddy of song
 - 47 Behalf
 - 48 Hersheiser
 - 49 Five-dollar bills
 - 50 Turner of old films
 - 51 Periman of "Cheers"
 - 52 Lubricates
 - 53 Sword
 - 56 Comp. pt.
 - 57 Jeanne d'Arc abbr.

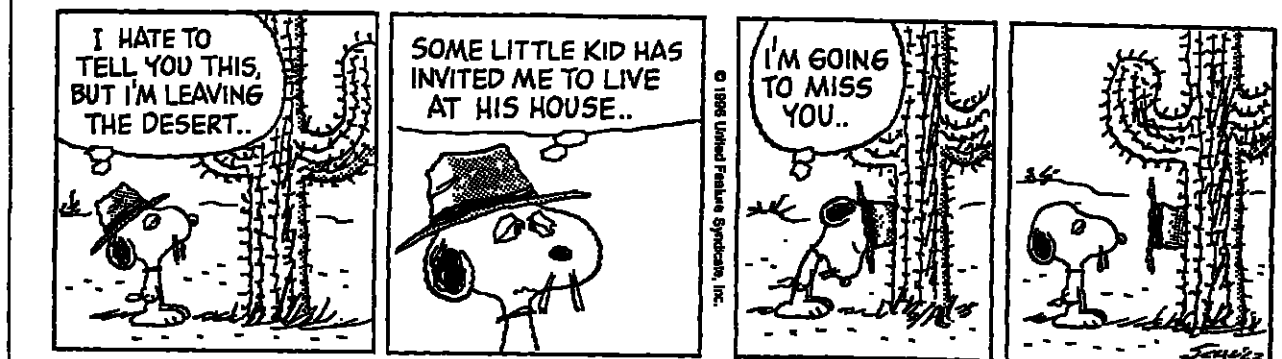


THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"I should be getting a raise soon.
We added subliminal messages
to the boss's screen saver."

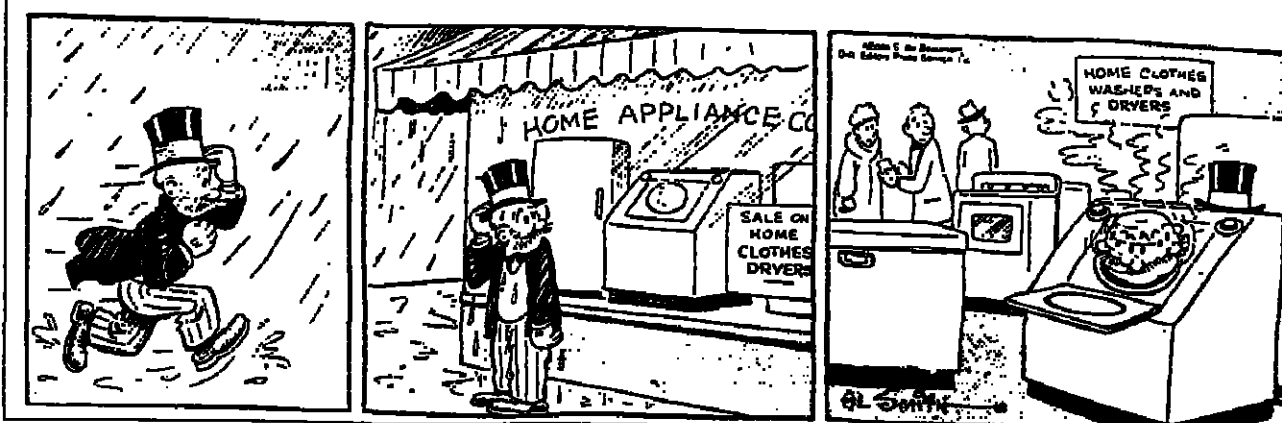
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff





Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp (left) concentrates while running as his team mate Jordi Cruyff looks on while coach Guus Hiddink (right) adjusts the net during a Dutch National Soccer team's training session in Liverpool, June 20. The Netherlands will play France in the quarter-finals of the European Soccer Championships on June 22. (Reuters photo)

Dutch captain calls for unity

LIVERPOOL (R) — Dutch captain Danny Blind is attempting to smooth over the rifts in the Netherlands camp in the build-up to his side's Euro 96 quarter-final against France at Anfield Saturday.

This week's 4-1 defeat by England has inevitably been linked to the absence of midfielder Edgar Davids, sent home amid accusations coach Guus Hiddink was favouring certain players, but Blind claims the level of discontent has been exaggerated.

"They're all rumours," insisted the 34-year-old defender, a pivotal figure in the outstanding Ajax side which has supplied the bulk of the Dutch squad.

"I've played for many years with all these guys at

Ajax and there haven't been any problems at all. Nothing has changed."

Blind did concede, however, there had been a breakdown in on-field communications in the second half at Wembley which contributed to his side's worst international defeat for 21 years.

"The worst thing you can have is a team in two minds," said Blind, admitting some players had ignored instructions as England took a grip on the game.

"Normally there's no problem but on Tuesday there was because some

players wanted to go into attack when they should have stayed back."

Ironically, Hiddink's best way out of trouble is to pick Patrick Kluivert, one of the players to have apparently supported Davids, on the same pitch where he took Ireland apart in last December's qualifying play-off.

The Dutch won 2-0 with two Kluivert goals crowning a majestic performance, but Blind feels the game obscured the reasons why the Dutch failed to qualify by the conventional route.

"We played one good game at Anfield and every-

one said Holland were favourites," recalled Blind. "The expectations at home have been very big and unrealistic."

Expectations in France could scarcely be higher, given their 26-match unbeaten record and their effective progress to the last eight under Aime Jacquet.

"The French are in good shape," agreed Blind. "They're a very good team with a lot of confidence...I see them as one of the favourites. They're a complete side."

No-one in England is in danger of forgetting the Wembley scoreline, and public opinion suggests a Dutch revival is about as likely as a Beatles reunion concert in neighbouring Stanley park this weekend.

Sacchi dismisses all talk of quitting

ALSAGER (R) — Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi Thursday dismissed all talk of quitting after his side's elimination from the European Championship.

Sacchi, who signed a new two-year contract with the Italian Football Federation in March, said at his final news conference before his squad left for home: "I have no intention of resigning."

"If my new contract had been conditioned by the results of Euro 96 I would not have signed it," he told reporters before the squad left its training base.

"I have signed a contract only two months ago. I would like to continue as the Italian coach. If they don't want me I will be on the market. However, I would like to remain and continue to work as the national coach."

Italy were eliminated after being held to a goalless draw by Germany in their final Group C match at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

A victory would have seen them through to the last eight. Although they finished with four points from their three group games, the same tally as the Czech Republic, they were eliminated because they lost to the Czechs 2-1 last Friday.

After Wednesday's disappointing outcome Federation President Antonio Matarrese pledged his support for Sacchi.

But Matarrese is guaranteed his position only for the next two months when he bids for re-election against Luciano Nizzola, president of the League.

England and Spain in hunt for elusive success at Euro 96

LONDON (R) — England and Spain, two of the greatest under-achievers in international soccer, come face to face at Wembley Saturday in what is bound to be an emotional, highly-charged Euro 96 quarter-final.

Despite the triumphs of Real Madrid, Barcelona, Manchester United, Liverpool and other Spanish and English clubs in European competition over the last 40 years, their national teams have in contrast won just one major title each.

Spain were European champions in 1964. England were World champions in 1966. Since then neither country has won anything.

Now they both appear to have a realistic chance of ending that barren spell.

England come into the match brimming with confidence after their stunning 4-1 win over the Netherlands in their final group match on Tuesday.

Spain enter the fray unbeaten in 19 matches since the 1994 World Cup in the United States, with a will-to-win second to none and an equally strong sense of team work as England.

Coaches Terry Venables and Javier Clemente are also old rivals from the mid-1980s when Venables was coach at Barcelona and

Clemente was in charge at Espanyol, Barcelona's second team.

Spanish goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta and Guillermo Amor, who scored the winner against Romania in their last group game, played for Barcelona under Venables and the English coach admits the match has special meaning for him.

"It does give it an extra flavour but it could hardly be more exciting anyway," he said on Thursday.

Like Venables, Clemente has been the target of intense media criticism at home and this week was involved in a scuffle with a Spanish radio reporter, sparking even more vilification from the Spanish press.

Venables has also been a target for the doubters, but after England's 2-0 win over Scotland last Saturday and Tuesday's destruction of the Dutch, he comes into the match riding a wave of popularity that could yet help carry his team all the way to victory in the final on June 30.

But Spain will be no pushovers. Ten of their players have already had their names taken or been sent off. Unlike Spanish teams of old, Clemente's side is not afraid of a scrap and defensively they will probably not capitulate as the Dutch did if they fall

behind.

Venables has two injury concerns. Centre-back Tony Adams is doubtful with inflammation of scar tissue on a troublesome knee and wide midfielder Darren Anderton, who has improved with every game, has a hamstring strain. Both players missed training on Thursday.

Venables will also be without the suspended Paul Ince following two yellow cards, and his absence could allow Fernando Hierro more freedom to create in midfield.

David Platt will almost certainly take over from Ince in the middle, but Venables will wait until the last possible moment before making any more changes.

Clemente, who has no serious injury worries, could start with Atletico Madrid's Jose Luis Camarero in place of Real's Jose Amavisca in midfield following two poor games.

Spain and England have clashed 16 times, England winning 10 times, Spain five, with one draw.

Spain won on their last visit to Wembley for a friendly in 1981, but have not beaten England in a competitive match since the 1950 World Cup finals in Brazil.

Police happy with fans, warn against complacency

LIVERPOOL (R) — The police officer in charge of security at Euro 96 said he was happy with the way fans had behaved but warned against complacency over possible hooliganism.

"We still have a long way to go. You have to excuse my pessimism but the most important matches are ahead of us," assistant chief constable Malcolm George said on Thursday.

"I'm pleased with the way things have gone so far but we will still have concerns until the final is over. The further a tournament progresses, the more passionate the fans tend to become."

Several British tabloids had predicted the tournament would turn into a "hooligans' World Cup", with blood flowing freely inside stadiums and city centres.

But reality could not have been more different.

Well-behaved fans from all 16 countries mingled freely from the start, more keen to exchange badges and addresses than punches. Even high-risk matches passed off peacefully.

"Things have gone far better than expected. If you look at international soccer, you could think that certain teams we have had here might cause problems but we have had none at all," said inspector Dave Cooper of Liverpool police.

Police forces in the seven venues away from London's Wembley Stadium reported just a handful of arrests at each of the 21 first-round matches, with many saying the games had been significantly quieter than domestic fixtures.

"The credit for this goes partly to the

supporters and partly to us and also shows the value of early planning," said George, who spent two years preparing for the championship.

Police said that a high-profile campaign aimed at British soccer hooligans in the run-up to Euro 96 had helped deter many potential troublemakers.

"It's been really quite wonderful. It's been a pleasure to have these fans in the city," said Jennifer Milliken of Nottingham police.

The one blot on the scoresheet was the 135 arrests made outside Wembley Stadium — which staged three group matches — and in central London after the England-Scotland game.

But this was nothing compared to the numbers detained after the same match in previous years.

Most of those arrested had been trying to resell match tickets — which is illegal in Britain — while others were caught scuffling or found drunk.

Fears that foreign fans would smuggle fireworks and weapons into the grounds have proved baseless so far. Sheffield police boarded every supporters' coach and invited fans to deposit banned items into plastic bags with no questions asked.

Some police were cynical at the way tabloids had quickly focused their attention on how well the fans had behaved when it became clear there would be no widespread violence.

"We all sat here stunned, wondering how they could change their tune so fast," said Joanne Gibbs of Birmingham police.

Johansson praises English officials

LONDON (R) — UEFA President Lennart Johansson praised the English soccer authorities and saluted the fans in a thumbs-up for Euro 96 on Friday.

Johansson said: "We never doubted the Football Association (F.A.) and the English authorities would be able to run this event."

"So it is a pleasure to say the organisation and security are excellent. I feel sure that my friend (F.A. Chairman) Sir Bert Millichip, as well as his staff, are just as delighted as I am."

Johansson added the tournament had been the memorable event European soccer's governing body UEFA had anticipated it would be when they agreed to hold it in England.

"The atmosphere has been fantastic, not least thanks to the spectators," he said. "They have been a great inspiration for the players. I am also grateful for their behaviour outside the stadiums."

"The players and coaches have made the group phase a spectacular show, full of unforgettable highlights."

Johansson played down criticism of referees that marked the first week of the tournament.

"In general, I am also very satisfied with the referees," he explained. "At the beginning, they were blamed for giving too many yellow cards but they only followed the instructions and the guidelines of UEFA in order to protect our game."

"And now I feel that everybody who cares about the game, players, coaches and officials as well as media and public, are pleased with the outcome no broken legs but several fascinating and skilful details."



Czech National soccer team coach Dusan Uhrin happily smiles at the press conference a day after the Czech Republic qualified to the quarterfinals at the EURO 96. (Reuters photo)

Hats off to Germans, says Czech coach

LIVERPOOL (R) — Czech Republic coach Dusan Uhrin offered thanks to Germany while his Russian opposite number Oleg Romantsev said he would not quit after a night of Euro 96 high drama at Anfield.

Uhrin, whose team qualified for the quarter-finals following a dramatic 3-3 draw against Russia, acknowledged their debt to Germany.

"I take my hat off to them," he said after the Germans held Italy to a goalless draw with only 10 men, enabling the Czech Republic to take second place in group C to secure a last-eight place.

Captain Miroslav Kadlec and his wife also had a part to play, even though Kadlec was suspended.

Telephoning his wife, who was following the Germany-Italy game on television, he managed to

keep his team mates up to date with news of the Old Trafford match.

But only on the final whistle was it confirmed they had made it, prompting the Czech players to throw their shirts into the crowd in a joyful emotional release.

The future wife of substitute Vladimir Smicer may have mixed feelings about the outcome. His late goal meant their wedding on June 28 may have to be postponed if the Czechs continue to progress.

Uhrin, never a man to become over-excited, said he would digest the lessons of the performance against Russia before starting to think about the Portuguese.

"I don't know why we did so badly at the start of the second half," he said, "but I don't think it should happen again."

Sad Russians brace themselves for purge following disappointing performance

LIVERPOOL (R) — Russia's dejected soccer players on Thursday prepared to fly home and face the purge which will inevitably follow their hugely disappointing performance in the European Championship.

The side were tipped as one of the dark horses of Euro 96 but showed an alarming tendency to crumble at the first sign of adversity and only briefly were seen at their best.

"The team needs a lot of work on its mental attitude. I turned out to be a pretty mediocre psychologist," admitted manager Oleg Romantsev, who has much to do before the next World Cup qualifying campaign starts later this year.

Even judged by the sorry record of former Soviet sides in recent major championships, Russia were poor. For 45 minutes each game strikers forgot where the goal was, defenders fell asleep and goalkeepers played as if clad in lead boots.

"A team which can only play for one half of a match cannot count on good results," said Romantsev, widely praised for unifying the players after many senior squad members mutinied against previous manager Pavel Sadyrin in 1994.

But by the end of Russia's Euro 96 campaign Romantsev had publicly lambasted his team for lacking fighting spirit and memorably said the best players in the defeat by Germany were those on the bench.

He sent home top scorer Sergei Kiryakov for undermining squad morale, promising never to select him again, and then indulged in a war of words with winger Andrei Kanchelskis who had objected to being played in defence.

Once Kiryakov had returned to Germany, where he plays for Karlsruhe, he said the squad was fragmented and unhappy with Romantsev's authoritarian style.

"Kiryakov went in the morning and by the evening the players had forgotten who he was. No one asked me to change my mind. I should have sent him home earlier," scoffed Romantsev.

But several of the foreign-based key players, used to the greater freedom of expression enjoyed in western sides, made it clear they objected to Romantsev's Soviet-era approach.

"He just looks at you and makes it quite clear you're a piece of dirt," complained one experienced squad member.

Romantsev had a large pool of talent to choose from but when it came to the crunch too many players were out of form.

He was not helped by the fact that several of the so-called stars who went abroad ended up playing for mediocre sides where acceptance of defeat quickly became the norm.

"We will, of course, continue to invite players based abroad, since they are the strongest. But we will not choose as many as we have

done up to now," he said.

This appears likely to leave players as untested as midfielder Igor Shalimov and Reggiana striker Igor Simutenkov, who achieved little during the tournament, out in the cold.

Stalwarts like Foggia striker Igor Kolyvanov and Austria Tirol goalkeeper Stanislav Cherchesov might also be worried after their indifferent performances.

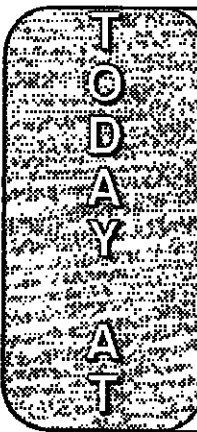
Perhaps the main culprit was captain Viktor Onopko, now playing for struggling Spanish side Oviedo, who looked a shadow of his usual confident self.

But Russian Soccer Union President Vyacheslav Koloskov said there was a good reason for this.

"The man hasn't had a break for two years. He played in the 1994 World Cup, the 1994-5 UEFA champions' league, the 1995 Russian season, the 1995-96 champions' league again and finally he went to Oviedo and has played non-stop for them," he said.

One player likely to benefit from future changes is Lanky Rotor Volgograd striker Oleg Veretennikov who has played exceptionally well this season.

But few others in Russia catch the eye and Romantsev's plight looks likely to increase when Spartak Moscow midfielder Ilya Tsybalar and defender Yuri Nikiforov succumb to the inevitable and sign for foreign clubs.



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Sosa hits league-leading 24th homer in Cubs win; Astros beat Dodgers

SAN DIEGO (R) — Jaime Navarro scattered four hits over 7 2/3 innings and Sammy Sosa cracked his league-leading 24th homer as the Chicago Cubs held on for a 3-2 win over the San Diego Padres Thursday.

Navarro (4-8) allowed two runs on pinch-hitter Marc Newfield's two-run homer in the eighth inning. He did not walk a batter and struck out six to avenge a 2-1 loss to San Diego five days ago.

"I felt strong, but the last few innings, I started to get tired and it was a hanging slider to Newfield," Navarro said.

Leo Gomez led off the fifth with a solo homer off Padres starter and loser Tim Lincecum (5-2) to give Chicago an early lead. With two out in the sixth and the Cubs leading 1-0, Sosa belted a 3-2 pitch off Worrell over the left-center field fence to make it 3-0 as San Diego fell to 3-16 in the month of June.

"Sammy has been cutting down on the strikeouts in recent weeks," said Cubs manager Jim Riggleman. "The power is still there, but he is putting in more hits."

In Montreal, Moises Alou's three-run homer capped a four-run first inning and the Expos cruised to their seventh win in nine games, an 8-3 triumph over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Darrin Fletcher and Henry Rodriguez also



The Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Hideo Nomo (left) is late with the tag while covering home plate June 20, as the Houston Astros Craig Biggio scores on a Nomo wild pitch in the first inning in Los Angeles. (Reuters photo)

homered for the Expos. It was the 23rd home run for Rodriguez.

Mark Grudzielanek had three hits, including a lead-off triple off Todd Stottlemyre (6-5) in the Expos' first. Mike Lansing singled him home and Rodriguez walked before Alou hit a 2-2 pitch over the left-field fence for his 10th homer.

Kirk Rueter (4-4) allowed three runs and seven hits over 5 2/3 innings to pick up the win.

In New York, Dave Burba allowed three runs over six innings for his first win of the season and Bret Boone and Willie Greene added

solo homers as the Cincinnati Reds beat the New York Mets 5-3.

Burba (1-8) allowed six hits in his first win since last September 22. Hector Carrasco and Jeff Shaw combined to retire the last nine batters in order for Cincinnati.

Reggie Sanders added four hits as the Reds won for the sixth time in seven road games.

Mets starter Bobby Jones (6-4) surrendered five runs and eight hits in a losing effort.

In Los Angeles, Jeff Bagwell snapped a sixth-inning tie with a solo homer off

Hideo Nomo and rookie Donnie Wall remained unbeaten as the Houston Astros beat the Dodgers 4-2.

The Astros pulled with St. Louis atop the central division, while the Dodgers saw their lead over Colorado and San Francisco slip to one game in the west.

With the score tied at 2-2 in the top of the sixth, Bagwell deposited Nomo's (8-6) 2-1 pitch well over the left-field fence for his 21st home run.

Wall allowed two runs and seven hits to raise his record to a perfect 5-0.

Lewis and Johnson make Olympic team

ATLANTA (R) — Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson, the two biggest names in American athletics, clinched Olympic berths in contrasting styles Wednesday.

Eight-time Olympic champion Lewis, who had finished last in the 100 metres at the U.S. Trials, leaped 8.30 metres (27 feet, 2 3/4 inches) on his second long jump attempt and hung on for the third and final U.S. Spot in the event.

"It's been an amazing run," said the soon-to-be 35-year-old Lewis, who has won the last three consecutive Olympic long jumps.

"This is a very exciting time for me because the long jump has always been my favourite event. I thought I had a chance in the 100. Just to be up here with a chance to go to the Olympics again is a tremendous feeling."

World champion Johnson, meanwhile, raced to the third fastest 400 metres of all time, 43.44 seconds, for his 53rd consecutive victory in the event. But he said a poor reaction to the starter's gun cost him a world record.

Still, only Butch Reynolds, whose world record is 43.29 seconds, and Johnson, who won the World Championship last year in 43.39 seconds, have run faster.

Reynolds, the 1988 Olympic silver medalist, claimed the second spot in 43.91 seconds as he ran under 44 seconds for the first time since 1988.

World record-holder Mike Powell dramatically came from sixth to win the long jump at 8.39 metres (27 feet, 6 1/2 inches).

Joe Greene, the 1992 Olympic bronze medalist, finished second at 8.34 metres (27 feet, 4 1/2 inches) as the same team that represented the United States in Barcelona will be returning to Atlanta next month.

The 28-year-old Johnson, for whom the Olympic schedule was changed so that he could attempt to become the first male to win gold at 200 and 400 metres in the same games, now joins Lewis in the 200-metre qualifying beginning on Friday.



Chicago Bulls' general manager Jerry Krause (left) and Phil Jackson (right) answer questions at a press conference after Jackson agreed to a new one-year contract to coach the Chicago Bulls for the 1996-97 season (Reuters photo)

Bulls sign coach Phil Jackson to new contract

DEERFIELD, Illinois (R) — Phil Jackson, the only basketball coach whom superstar Michael Jordan wants to play for, agreed to a new one-year contract with the NBA champion Chicago Bulls, the team announced Thursday.

Neither Jackson nor Bulls general manager Jerry Krause would disclose the value of the contract, but various broadcast reports put the deal between \$2 million and \$3 million for the 1996-97 campaign, a figure that would make Jackson one of the highest-paid coaches in this or any sport.

"It's what I wanted and what they wanted," Jackson said at a news conference at the club's suburban practice facility.

"This one season was a season in which I felt was going to be my last," he admitted. "But ... with this type of a season and the encouragement I received from the ballplayers as they left yesterday to continue to coach, it was an impossible task to walk away from," he said.

Jackson was named NBA coach of the year after guiding the Bulls to a record 72-10 regular season mark, and watched his team win its fourth championship in six years with their victory over the Seattle SuperSonics Sunday.

In seven seasons as Chicago's head coach, the Bulls have a 416-160 record and Jackson owns the highest

postseason winning percentage of any NBA coach. Whatever the actual figure, Jackson's new contract will likely pay more than double his \$866,000 salary of last season, considered a paltry sum for a man who owns more championship rings than any active coach but Miami's Pat Riley, who also won four NBA titles during his days coaching the Los Angeles Lakers.

Jackson, perhaps as a negotiating ploy, had suggested that he was considering taking some time off from coaching if he did not receive an acceptable offer. However, he told reporters that he and team manage-

ment had "agreed to agree" on a new deal weeks ago. Jackson's signing is the first step in keeping the championship puzzle together. Jordan, the world's greatest basketball player, is a free agent and has said he would not stay in Chicago without Jackson.

Jordan, who makes only a fraction of his estimated \$40 million annual income from salary — the majority comes from endorsement deals — has been quoted as saying he deserves \$18 million to \$20 million per season to re-sign with the Bulls.

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Date: 18/6/1996
Loan No.: 89 66 400
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2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from Bidders in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany (eligible Bidders) for supply and installation of Geographic Information System (GIS) Computer Software for the Amman Network Information System (ANIS), as well as related data conversion and staff training.
3. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Secretary General, Tenders Division, Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412 Amman, Jordan, Tel. 680100, Tlx. 22439 WAJ JO, Fax. 679143.
4. A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 50.
5. All bids must be submitted in separate envelopes, marked "technical" and "financial", be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of JD 2,000- (in words: two thousand Jordan Dinars) and must be delivered to the office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Wednesday, 17/7/1996.
6. Thursday, 11/7/1996, is the last day set for the purchasing of tender documents.

Eng. Koussal Qutishat
Secretary General
Water Authority

Anderson, Palmeiro homers lift Orioles past Texas

BALTIMORE (R) — Brady Anderson and Rafael Palmeiro launched third-inning home runs to lift the Baltimore Orioles to a 3-2 win over the Texas Rangers on Thursday.

The win was just the Orioles' second in 10 games against Texas this season.

"There's always going to be some teams during the season that you struggle against," Anderson said. "Texas has been one of them for us."

Anderson tied the game at 2-2 in the third inning as he belted his 25th homer of the year off Kevin Gross (7-5), tying him with Cleveland's Albert Belle for the Major League lead. Palmeiro then followed with his 16th homer three batters later to put the Orioles ahead for good.

Anderson also preserved the win by throwing out Kevin Elster attempting the score in the eighth inning.

David Wells (4-6) went 7 1/3 innings, allowing two runs and six hits. He struck out four and did not walk a batter.

Dean Palmer hit his 17th homer for Texas, but Ivan Rodriguez's 19-game hitting streak, the longest current streak in the Majors, came to an end with a 0-for-3 effort.

In Cleveland, Kenny Lofton's one-out single in the bottom of the ninth scored pinch-runner Jeremy Burnitz with the winning run as the Indians beat the Boston Red Sox 5-4.

The Indians have won all 10 meetings with the Red Sox this season, outscoring them, 79-36.

Manny Ramirez and Jim Thome each homered off Boston starter Roger Clemens.

Paul Shuey (1-1) worked two scoreless innings for his first Major-League win. Mike Stanton (3-2) took the loss.

In Chicago, Paul Sorrento and Joey Cora each drove in two runs to lead the Seattle Mariners to a 8-5 win over the White Sox in their first game since losing Ken Griffey Jr. to injury.

Sorrento homered and doubled twice for the Mariners, who learned Thursday that Griffey likely will be sidelined for up

to a month after undergoing surgery on a broken wrist bone.

Sterling Hitchcock (6-3) allowed three runs and nine hits in six-plus innings for the win.

Sorrento doubled and scored in the second inning, added a RBI double in the fifth for a 5-0 lead and hit a solo homer off White Sox starter Kevin Tapani (7-4) in the seventh.

In Detroit, Frank Rodriguez picked up his third win in his last four starts and Ron Coomer's pinch-hit two-run single highlighted a three-run eighth as the Minnesota Twins beat the Tigers 7-3.

Rodriguez (6-7) allowed three runs, eight hits, struck out two and walked none over seven innings.

Marty Cordova homered off loser Omar Olivares (3-3) in Minnesota's three-run fourth.

Bobby Higginson homered in the first and third to briefly give Detroit the lead. Cecil Fielder also smacked his 17th homer for the Tigers, losers of five in a row.

In Milwaukee, Mark Langston allowed three runs over seven innings and Randy Velarde and

Don Slaught drove in three runs apiece as the red-hot California Angels beat the Brewers 10-3.

Langston (5-5) allowed five hits as California won for the 11th time in its last 12 games. Brian Givens (1-2) was shelled for seven runs and nine hits in 3 1/3 innings for Milwaukee.

Velarde had an RBI double in the first inning and run-scoring singles in the third and fourth. Slaught added a two-run single in the fourth.

Greg Vaughn notched his 20th homer for Milwaukee, his sixth in eight games.

In Oakland, Pat Hentgen and Mike Timlin com-

bined on a two-hitter and Ed Sprague drove in the only run of the game as the Toronto Blue Jays blanked the Athletics 1-0, for their season-high fourth straight win.

Hentgen (7-5) limited the A's two hits over eight innings. After allowing a walk to Rafael Bourimigal in the first, he retired the next 13 batters. Hentgen did not allow a hit until Ernie Young's double in the sixth. Timlin pitched a perfect ninth for his 12th save.

The Jays gave Hentgen all the support he would need with a run off Don Wengert (2-5) in the third.

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Musa says Turkish dispute with Syria to be discussed at summit

CAIRO (AP) — Arab leaders will discuss the mounting problems between Syria and Turkey in their summit today and tomorrow despite Turkish protests. Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Friday.

But Mr. Musa made it clear the Arabs do not want to harm relations with Turkey, a Muslim country that is not a member of the Arab League.

"Yes, Turkey has been discussed and will be discussed by the leaders," Mr. Musa told reporters after Friday's meeting of Arab foreign ministers.

He added: "I would like to say that we consider our relations with Turkey as very important, and we hope they will be very good

relations."

Arab countries have expressed concern since Turkey earlier this year signed a military training agreement with the Jewish state that allows Israeli jets fly in Turkish airspace from Turkish bases. Arabs fear the deal undermines their security.

Syria is at odds with Turkey over plans by Ankara to build new dams on the Euphrates River, which could reduce the flow of water into Iraq and Syria. Turkey, meanwhile, has accused Syria of harbouring Kurdish guerrillas who have been fighting for autonomy in eastern Turkey.

Both Turkey and Syria have accused each other in

recent days of massing troops along their border — steps both have denied.

Turkish President Suleiman Demirel has warned Arab leaders not to address the military pact with Israel or water issues at the summit.

On Thursday, Turkish Foreign Minister Emre Gonensay said Turkey will not negotiate a water-sharing agreement unless Syria cracks down on Kurdish rebels.

Muwaffak Al-Alaif, a Syrian who serves as the Arab League's assistant secretary-general, was quoted Friday by the London-based Al-Hayat newspaper as rejecting the Turkish stance.

"This is a ridiculous and a failed attempt by Turkey," Mr. Alaif said. Arab leaders do not take directions from Turkey or Israel or from any other state... and they will discuss what guarantees standing up to any threats facing the Arab Nation."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told reporters on his arrival in Cairo on Thursday that "Syria wants to improve its relations with Turkey and does not want this tension and escalation."

He added: "We think Turkey is escalating this situation on purpose... The Turkish-Israeli agreement makes the situation very tense, which is undesirable for everyone."

Ciller-Erbakan talks seen close to collapse

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey lurched towards a new political crisis Friday as talks to form an unlikely alliance between Islamists and former Premier Tansu Ciller's conservatives looked set to collapse amid a revolt in her party.

Four deputies from Mrs. Ciller's True Path Party quit Friday to join the right-wing Motherland Party of her bitter rival, Mesut Yilmaz.

Turkish media quoted one of Mrs. Ciller's party deputies, Ali Sonmez, as saying the planned coalition was "finished."

But the pro-Islamic Welfare Party said a meeting between its leader Necmettin Erbakan and Mrs. Ciller would take place later Friday at the parliament building.

A meeting Thursday, which was aimed at putting final touches to a coalition, was postponed at her request.

Turkish politics has been in chaos since legislative

elections in December failed to give any party a majority.

Mr. Erbakan was asked to form a government on June 7 after an earlier True Path-Motherland coalition collapsed amid bitter rivalry between the two leaders.

But the prospects of a Welfare-True Path alliance already looked doomed late Thursday when Foreign Minister Emre Gonensay, who is prominent in Mrs. Ciller's party, denounced the plans to give the Islamists their first share of power since the secular Turkish republic was formed in 1923.

"I will definitely cast a no vote in a vote of confidence for a coalition government between True Path and the Welfare Party," Mr. Gonensay said here.

"I don't mind if they expel me from the party for that reason," Mr. Gonensay added. "It's simply wrong to set up a coalition with Welfare because of the differences between the two parties."

U.N. destroys Iraqi germ warfare plant

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. experts said Friday that they had completely destroyed Iraq's main germ warfare plant.

A U.N. video of the destruction showed workers dynamiting buildings, smashing equipment with trucks and spraying water on chemicals. The destruction began last month and ended Thursday.

Iraq said last week that it would no longer allow U.N. inspectors into sensitive bases suspected of housing material related to its banned weapons programmes.

"The Al Hakam complex, which in the past produced germ warfare weapons, no longer exists," an official from the U.N. offices in Baghdad said.

A 20-member team of experts from the U.N. Special Commission on Disarming Iraq (UNSCOM), which began its work in mid-May, "has finished dismantling the factory at Al Hakam and is due to leave Iraq on Saturday," he added. The factory is 80 kilo-

metres south of Baghdad and has been described as the country's "largest germ warfare complex," covering an 18-square-kilometre area.

The announcement came as UNSCOM chief Rolf Ekewas was in Iraq to try to convince Iraqi authorities to lift their ban on his inspectors visiting military sites suspected of hiding banned weapons.

Al Hakam was the biggest biological plant in Iraq and the first to be destroyed, U.N. officials said, adding that Iraqis had provided the workforce for the demolition.

Cameras linked to the UNSCOM's monitoring centre in Baghdad had been installed at the plant in several areas, including a watch tower that rose 56 metres above the compound. U.N. officials have said that the biological file would not be closed after Al Hakam's destruction. UNSCOM also supervised the demolition of a chemical plant at Al Muthanna northwest of Baghdad three years ago.

Prince Hassan arrives in London on working visit after talks in Canada

From Ayman Al Safadi in Montreal

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan has arrived in London on a working visit during which he will attend a meeting on inter-Islamic dialogue organised by the Al al Bait University in cooperation with the Khoei Foundation, deliver a lecture at the Chateaubriand Institute and receive an award from the Jewish Institute on Policy Research.

The Crown Prince arrived in London from Montreal Thursday after a three-day official visit to Canada where he held talks with Canadian officials on the peace process, bilateral relations, refugees and delivered speeches on the peace-building process as well as the role of non-governmental organisations during meetings organised by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Prince Hassan held talks with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy as well as other Canadian officials and representatives of the business community.

In these talks, Prince Hassan reiterated the Kingdom's commitment to comprehensive peace in the Middle East, emphasised that the human dimensions of the refugee problem should not be ignored, and discussed the new business and economic trends and environment with his Canadian hosts.

In a meeting with Minister for International Cooperation and Francophone Affairs Pierre Pettigrew, Prince Hassan expressed hope that peace-building will not be devoid of its humanistic aspect. He said moderate countries of the region should have the requirements of their political and economic security fulfilled so that they can maintain their effectiveness in the political situation in the region.

The minister pledged to work towards enhancing cooperation with Jordan and to follow up on the talks the Prince held with other Canadian officials during his visit here on which he was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Jamal Saraih, Minister of Planning, Rima Khalaf,

Director General of Parliament Hakan Khair and other officials.

Mr. Pettigrew said the stability and location of Jordan and the human resources of a multilingual society are factors that render sufficient and suitable business environment of the Kingdom.

At a dinner hosted in honour of Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, Mr. Pettigrew urged Canadian businesses to realise that the business environment in Jordan had changed and offers numerous opportunities.

In a speech at the dinner, Prince Hassan reiterated Jordan's position on the peace process, regional cooperation, economic liberalisation and belief in inter-faith dialogue to promote understanding among the followers of the three monotheistic religions.

Prince Hassan also reiterated his views on the importance of addressing the social, economic and human dimension of the refugee problems as well as the need to rehabilitate the economies of the region to render them capable of entering the world market.

Hekmatyar to be sworn in as premier Wednesday

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, chief of the Hezb-e-Islami faction in Afghanistan will be sworn in as prime minister on Wednesday, a party spokesman said here Friday.

Mr. Hekmatyar, 48, will arrive in Kabul on Wednesday for the first time since the fall of the communist regime in 1992. He will be accompanied by a "big procession" of party workers and supporters, said spokesman Ghaiat Baber.

President Buzhanuddin Rabbani will perform the oath-taking ceremony. "This is a very important occasion," Mr. Baber said, adding that Mr. Hekmatyar leader had invited diplomats of Muslim countries and heads of Islamic organisations in Pakistan and abroad to attend the ceremony.

Mr. Hekmatyar was appointed prime minister under the May 24 peace accords he signed with Mr. Rabbani. Mr. Baber said Mr. Hekmatyar had already nominated Waheedullah Saboon as defence minister and Abdul Salam Hashrui as finance minister.

Under the political and military accord, the Hezb-e-Islami will also get the portfolios of deputy foreign minister and deputy interior minister, Mr. Baber said. They will be named later.

A former foe of Mr. Rabbani, Mr. Hekmatyar was first named prime minister under a multi-party accord following the collapse of the pro-Moscow regime in Kabul. But he never entered the Afghan capital. He resigned the premiership two years ago and allied his forces with northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam who staged an abortive coup against Mr. Rabbani in January 1994.

Mr. Hekmatyar's base which he established in Charasab, 25 kilometres East of Kabul, was overrun by the Islamic Taliban militia last year, forcing him to withdraw towards his Sarobi base 30 kilometres east of Kabul.

Analysts in Kabul considered that the primary purpose of the Rabbani-Hekmatyar pact was to launch a combined attack to recapture areas held by the militia. But official Afghan government sources said their agreement was aimed at broadening the base of the Mr. Rabbani government. Under the accord Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar agreed jointly to defend Afghanistan to keep the country united.

U.S. escalating conflict with sanctions — Libya

CAIRO (AP) — A senior Libyan official on Friday accused the United States of trying to worsen relations by pushing for sanctions on foreign companies that do business with his country.

"We are surprised by this unprovoked escalation, which damages the interests of allies of the United States," said Jumaa Al Fazzani, Libya's secretary for Arab unity.

Mr. Fazzani spoke with reporters as Arab foreign ministers gathered in Cairo to plan the agenda for the Arab summit scheduled Saturday and Sunday.

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday approved legislation that mandates sanctions on foreigners who sell weapons, aviation equipment and oil equipment to Libya in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

It also calls for penalties against companies doing business with Iran.

Differences between the House of Representatives bill and similar legislation passed by the Senate must be worked out before it can become law.

The Security Council imposed diplomatic, air travel and arms sanctions on Libya in April 1992 to try to force the country to surrender two Libyans wanted in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

The U.N. sanctions were broadened in 1993 to include a ban on the sale of some oil production equipment and a freeze on Libya's assets abroad.

The U.S. legislation is designed to pressure European and Asian governments to follow the American lead in dealings with Libya and Iran, which the United States has branded as nations that support terrorism.

European Union leaders have opposed the legislation.

Karadzic's candidacy is condemned but observers unsurprised

SARAJEVO (AFP) — The international community Friday condemned the Serb nomination of hardliner Radovan Karadzic as a candidate for the post of president of the Republika Srpska, the Serb entity in post-war Bosnia.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on Friday said in a statement released in Bonn that the Serbs should immediately withdraw his candidature, announced by the Serb leadership Thursday.

"Mr. Karadzic's place is not sitting in the presidential seat but in front of the war crimes tribunal in the Hague," the German minister said.

And an official at the office of international envoy Carl Bildt, who asked not to be named, said the news that Mr. Karadzic was to be nominated by the Serbs was a ploy by the hardline leader.

"This announcement is aimed to demonstrate his popularity. He wants to show that he is loved by his people," the official said.

U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Thursday that the United States considered Mr. Karadzic's nomination as null and void. "His name will not be on the ballot," Mr.

Burns said. "He cannot hold office whether he has 100 or 1,000 votes."

Mr. Karadzic was named by his Serb Democratic Party (SDS) on Thursday as a candidate for the post of president of the Republika Srpska, the Serb entity in post-war Bosnia.

Under the Dayton peace accords, he is barred from standing in the elections or from holding public office as he has been charged with war crimes.

A hearing on the charges will take place in the Hague next week. A Western diplomat told AFP Friday that the announcement of the nomination was made to satisfy Serb public opinion. "This is above all a decision for internal consumption," he said.

Mr. Bildt's spokesman Colum Murphy said Thursday that while the news was "not a surprise" it was "a provocation which the international community will not and cannot accept."

The Muslim-led Bosnian government urged the international community Thursday to remove Mr. Karadzic from power, saying the announcement was a Serb ruse to disrupt elections.

Britain, EU agree on plan to eradicate mad cow disease

FLORENCE (AP) — Britain and its European partners ended a three-month dispute Friday with a step-by-step plan to eradicate mad cow disease in Britain and gradually lift a global ban on British beef exports.

The accord, announced on the first day of a two-day European Union summit meeting, should relieve some of the enormous domestic political pressure on British Prime Minister John Major and allow the EU to focus on important measures that had been put on the back burner.

London had retaliated against the EU export ban with a policy of non-cooperation, systematically vetoing all EU legislative and policy measures requiring a unanimous vote.

"My prime minister has indicated that our policy of non-cooperation ceases as of now," British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said after the agreement was announced.

The policy angered Britain's European partners and they were relieved that the mad cow rift appeared to be behind them.

Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok called the British step "very positive" and "of major importance to the EU."

After the prime ministers and chiefs of state broached the compromise at the opening session of the summit, foreign ministers worked out the details and presented it to the leaders over lunch. Quick approval followed.

The agreement included another \$250 million to compensate beef producers across the 15-nation EU, bringing the total to just over \$1 billion, officials said.

Britain had pressed the EU to allow beef exports to non-EU countries if these countries want them. Some EU countries, including France, considered it morally unacceptable to allow exports to third countries of products the EU would not accept itself.

Under the compromise deal, the EU will consider on a case-by-case basis requests for imports from non-EU nations until British exports are restored. One such country, British officials said, may be South Africa.

Britain announced March 20 there may be a link between mad cow disease and an equally fatal brain eating ailment in humans known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The EU slapped a worldwide ban on exports of British beef, citing public health concerns.

The agreement calls on the British government to slaughter selectively some 100,000 cattle born in 1989 or later. These are deemed at high risk of contracting mad cow disease.

Also, Britain must impose far stricter sanitary measures on farms, feedmills and slaughterhouses and monitor herds and individual cows much more closely to prevent tainted beef from entering the food chain.

The plan provides for step-by-step lifting of the ban as Britain complies with health and safety measures. As outlined in an earlier version, the products listed were cattle embryos, beef from herds certified as healthy, beef from animals too young to contract the disease, and eventually meat from all cattle.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sunken vessels may contain chemicals

KUWAIT (AP) — A U.N. expert warned in remarks published Thursday that some vessels sunken in the northern Gulf since the 1991 Gulf war may contain chemicals. John Ostergaard, an adviser to the U.N. International Maritime Organisation, told the Arab Times he was also worried that two tankers sunken in that area may break, releasing up to 105,000 tonnes of oil into the mostly shallow waters of the Gulf. Despite the absence of any official information on the existence of chemicals in the sunken vessels, Mr. Ostergaard said a team of IMO experts who visited the area in 1994 "observed the non-existence of plant and animal life downstream from some of the vessels," suggesting the presence of chemicals. He did not elaborate on the types of suspected chemicals, saying only that their presence can be confirmed when a salvage operation begins. At least 100 obstacles to navigation are thought to lie in the northern part of the Gulf near Kuwait and Iraq as a result of the Gulf war and the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war. Kuwait has repeatedly warned of a marine pollution disaster if the Iraqi tanker Amouria, which was carrying 100,000 tonnes of crude when it sank more than five years ago in the northern Gulf, is not salvaged.

N. Korea supplies missile materials to Egypt

WASHINGTON (AFP) — North Korea has supplied Scud missile materials to Egypt in violation of U.S. anti-proliferation laws, the Washington Times daily reported Friday, citing a CIA report. As a result, production of missiles could begin in Egypt soon, the newspaper quoted U.S. officials as saying. The report said seven shipments of materials for Scud C missiles arrived in Egypt in March and April. The State Department is drafting a protest to Cairo because such shipments violate a 1990 anti-proliferation law and could thus lead to the imposition of economic sanctions against Egypt, the daily said.

Qat plane hijacked, looted in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Two armed men hijacked a small plane from Somalia's K-50 airstrip, 50 kilometres south of Mogadishu and forced it to land at Kilwayne airstrip, 30 kilometres north of the capital, eyewitnesses said here Friday. The hijackers, who were armed with a pistol and a hand-grenade, then robbed the plane in the incident Thursday of \$30,000 after which they released the plane and passengers unhurt to return to Nairobi in neighbouring Kenya. The plane had come from Kenya with a load of Qat, a narcotic plant stimulant chewed by Somalis and inhabitants of the Gulf. The hijackers had gained entry to K-50 airstrip pretending to be businessmen and then bought tickets to fly to Nairobi where the plane was supposed to go. They commandeered the aircraft shortly after take-off and forced the pilot to land in Kilwayne. The plane had been hired in Kenya by Somali businessman Ali Aden to transport his khat merchandise to Mogadishu. More than eight small planes hired in Kenya by Somali businessmen to transport khat land at K-50 airstrip daily.



Farmer finds 1,000-year-old treasure

HELSINKI (AFP) — A Finnish farmer doing his spring ploughing unearthed an almost 1,000-year-old silver chain adorned with Arabian, Anglo-Saxon and Byzantine coins. National Museum officials said. Only two similar finds have been made in Finland, the most recent of them coming 100 years ago, according to the museum. The 50-centimetre (20-inch) chain is made of braided silver thread with 17 coins dating from the late 10th and early 11th centuries. The farmer, Risto Salli, found part of the chain when it broke under his plough. Museum personnel later retrieved the rest of the treasure.

Court finds hole in ruptured condom case

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese court has rejected a damages suit by a man who complained his condom ruptured during paid sex, saying he should not have slept with a prostitute if he was worried about AIDS. The Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported. The man, described only as a company president, had sought three million yen (\$27,700) in damages from a condom maker because of the danger of exposure to the AIDS virus, it said. The incident occurred in January 1994 when he was having sex with a prostitute in Thailand, and the woman was later found to have AIDS. Since then, the man has had 13 AIDS tests but has not been found to have the virus.

China sacks officials for being dead extravagant

BEIJING (R) — China has sacked or punished six senior officials who arranged extravagant funerals for colleagues or relatives, including ceremonies tainted by feudal superstitions practices, the official media said. "The extravagant funerals, those with tints of superstition in particular, are a phenomenon of serious corruption and an equally serious violation of the party's discipline, which poison the social mood and damage the image of the Communist Party and government," said a party circular in the official People's Daily newspaper.

China police lick lewd ice cream factory

BEIJING (R) — Children in eastern China licked their way to an ice cream surprise — the sticks of their popsicles turned out to be plastic models of a naked woman. In a night raid on a local ice cream factory, police in Xuzhou in eastern Jiangsu province seized 10,000 of the plastic models and 8,000 popsicles containing the nudes, the Xinhua News Agency said. The factory was closed. The factory had bought some 50,000 of the plastic models in April from a factory in Cixi in neighbouring Zhejiang province.

Filipinos reading less, watching more TV — survey

MANILA (R) — Filipinos are reading less and relying more on television and radio for their information and entertainment, a nationwide survey said. The government's National Statistics Office (NSO), which did the survey, said it questioned about 50 million Filipinos over 10 years old. "Except for books, which posted a very minimal increase in readership, all other forms of print media exhibited a decelerating trend," the statement said.